

# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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## ENGLAND AND THE CONTINENT.

THOUGH the Session that is now about to close has been a barren one enough as regards domestic legislation, it was, until the other night, remarkably free from those useless and tedious debates on the affairs of other countries in which so few speakers display knowledge of the subject, and in which so many flounder about in the most hopeless manner.

Not that the study of foreign politics is a bad thing in itself, as some vainly believe. It is closely connected with the question of our national safety. If we do not know something about the condition of foreign countries and their relations to one another, we cannot hope to understand their relations to England. In other words, we do not understand the position of our own country in the world, and are ignorant as to the degree of security that belongs to it.

So much wild discussion, tending to nothing, took place three years ago on the Polish and Danish questions, that of late, and until the great German war broke out, people in and out of the House of Commons have refused, with great propriety, to be bothered with foreign questions at all. Now, however, events of such importance have taken place in northern and central Europe that the attention of England to her position, externally considered, is absolutely compelled; and already we find the question raised in the columns

of many of our contemporaries whether, and to what extent, the great change on the Continent and the sudden growth of Prussia from the position of a nominally first-rate to that of an actually first-rate Power, will affect this country? According to one paper, which it is understood represents the exclusively commercial and peace-at-all-price party in England, everything has taken place for the best in Europe. Austria, finding that she has lost political influence, will rush energetically into trade. Prussia, because she has gained political influence, together with some ports in the North Sea, will do the same; while Italy, once in possession of Venice, will understand the value of that important maritime position for commercial purposes, and, instead of disputing with Austria about Trieste and the Dalmatian coast, will be contented to vie with her former rival in the arts of peace and barter alone.

This rose-coloured, or, to speak plainly, this trade-coloured view of affairs could not be maintained by a political journal, properly so called. Among papers not hampered by special interests, and which are free to view affairs in what, from general considerations, they may believe to be their true light, we find unanimity as to the altered and more or less endangered position of England in reference to the great Powers of the Continent, but very different and opposite

opinions as to the ability of England to meet danger of a really serious character. The late Mr. Cobden, than whom there never was a more sincere lover of peace, said in conversation with the well-known French economist, M. Michel Chevalier, when the latter was criticising and protesting against the magnitude of our naval armaments, that though he was not in favour of a large military establishment, he considered that our fleet ought to be sufficiently strong to meet those of any two Powers by which we might at any time be threatened. Towards the close of the last great war the English fleet was actually stronger than those of the whole world. Nor was it stronger than was necessary; for in 1812 England was opposed, though only, it is true, for a short time, to a coalition of all the Continental Powers with the exception of Spain and Portugal, which our troops were defending. In the course of a twenty-years' war, broken only by a short interval of peace, England destroyed in succession the Danish, the Spanish, and the French fleets; and during the brief period of our almost nominal hostility to Prussia we should, undoubtedly, have destroyed the Prussian fleet had that not very formidable flotilla ventured to show itself.

Now, the diminution of the relative force of England becomes apparent, it is said, when we consider the difficulty



"NOT SOLD YET."—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY J. T. LUCAS, IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.)



we should experience in treating the fleets of Europe as we treated them during the Napoleonic War. During the last years of that gigantic struggle we were perfectly secure from invasion, for the simple reason that we alone of the Powers of Europe possessed a fleet. Napoleon might try to exclude England from the Continent; but to invade England from the Continent had, for good material reasons, become impossible. In the present day, however, France has as fine a fleet as ever; Russia is said to have a much finer fleet than she ever had before; Italy has a fleet of some kind; Austria has a fleet which has just proved itself at least equal to that of Italy; and Prussia is going to have a fleet worthy of the first-rate Power which she has become actually, and is about to become formally—that is to say, with the consent and recognition of all the European Powers. In short, it will be very strange if, in a few years, France, Russia, and Prussia are not in a position to bring together a fleet which England alone would find irresistible. Of course, unless our diplomatists have lost all their cunning, such a combination as this ought to be anticipated and rendered impossible; but, whereas a triple naval combination could have done us no harm at the beginning of the century, it might be able to do us a great deal of harm now.

But those who take what we must call the depreciatory view of England's position go beyond this, and argue that, considered generally as a political Power, England, though positively as strong, perhaps, as ever she has been, is yet declining in relative weight. We see no reason for such an opinion beyond the comparatively unimportant fact that our military resources would not enable us at the present moment to do much against such armies as France and Prussia can put in the field. But we have never, in modern times, pretended to be a great military Power on land, and the naval question is really the one about which we need seriously trouble ourselves. At the same time, the mere discussion of such a question as England's relative strength in Europe is not encouraging as a symptom. Those who are really well do not go about asking what is the matter with them, and troubling themselves with reflections as to whether they are quite as strong as they used to be, and, above all, quite as strong as their neighbours. At the same time, a State, like an individual, may not feel perfectly strong, and yet be in no danger. There are no signs of impaired vitality in the life of England. In commercial matters we surely exhibit energy enough; and, were a sudden call made upon us, we should do so equally in naval and military affairs. But it is certain that in previous wars England, at the commencement, has shown herself not so much slow as unprepared; and, to be caught unprepared now would be infinitely more dangerous than it was a hundred years ago, when campaigns only took place in the summer months, and were tedious affairs then; and when they sometimes began and ended without any actual conflict between the armies engaged in marching, countermarching, and other strategical operations.

#### "NOT SOLD YET."

THE chief fault of this picture, in the opinion of a fantastical friend of ours, is that Mr. Lucas has put human beings into it. There is the village, looking fresh and wholesome, in the distance—it may "bubble over with scandal and spite," and it may be that "Jack, on his alehouse bench, has as many lies as a Czar," in spite of the village looking "so quiet and small" (as Mr. Tennyson puts it, in "Maud"), but we are not obliged to know it. There is no "scandal" in the sweet air of the landscape, no "spite" in the breath of the hedgerows, no "lying" in the tinkle of the sheep-bell. And the horse is a noble animal. One doesn't know all the peculiarities of this particular horse; he may "jib," he may "shy," he may be "spavined," he may be "wind-galled," only a judge of horseflesh can tell whether he is or not. But he doesn't look either of those things; and one can look at him with unmixed pleasure. Not so, however, says our fantastic friend, with these human creatures. You cannot by any stretch of charity suppose them to be perfect of their kind. The man who wants to sell the horse has a face which is not bad; but it is troubled—naturally—for the quadruped hangs on hand, in spite of the testimony of its own teeth to its youth. As for the fellow who is cheapening the animal, there is probably no harm in him, but he isn't an agreeable object—shall we dare to say he is a guy? "Dab out the two men, and trot out the horse!" cries our fantastic friend, who has evidently been reading Gulliver.

We do not here criticise the picture from the painter's point of view. It tells its own story. The laddie wants to sell the horse, and is disappointed that it is "Not Sold Yet." Whether he is parting with it for its sins or for his own needs the picture does not say. If we were a profound German critic we should say that the seller was obviously an honest man, because Diogenes had been that way, and, having found him, had hung up his lantern for good and all. But, addressing English readers, we will simply say it is a pleasant picture of a village scene, and probably a reminiscence in nearly all its details.

RUSSIA has suggested, it is said, the summoning of a European congress, but she has not undertaken to define its objects.

NATIONAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.—The annual prize meeting of the National Artillery Association commenced on Tuesday at Shoeburyness. Over 800 men are located there. The growing interest felt in the progress of the association may be seen from the fact that there are detachments present from Aberdeen, the Cinque Ports, Durham, Essex, Hants, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Northumberland, Sheffield, Shropshire, Surrey, Sussex, and the Tower Hamlets. The detachments generally consist of ten men each, but several counties have increased that number. The Cinque Ports send eleven detachments, Sheffield three, and many others a similar number. The bell tents are ranged in long lines, according to military regulations, with five non-commissioned officers and gunners to each tent. In the case of officers a tent is occupied by two persons only. The camp is under the command of Colonel Fisher, R.A., directly appointed by the War Office; and the council have appointed Lieutenant Colwell, of the Cinque Ports Artillery, to be Brigade-Major; Captain M'Kown, camp adjutant; Dr. A. B. De Lisle Allen, 1st Middlesex Artillery, surgeon; the Rev. Dr. Cross, chaplain; and Captain Beveridge, 12th Kent Artillery; and Lieutenant Starkey, 4th Cinque Ports Artillery, commissariat officers. The prizes are named after the Houses of Lords and Commons, the Duke of Cambridge's, the Prince of Wales's, the Duke of Wellington's, the Marquis of Hartington's, and her Majesty's. Other prizes will be given in the form of badges by the association. The prizes will be distributed by the Under-Secretary of State for War. The National Rifle Association have intimated their intention of giving a prize of £50. The targets are moored out at sea, at 1250 and 1500 yards range, each competing detachment to fire five rounds. Nothing could be more unfavourable than the tempestuous weather throughout Tuesday, for the rain poured down in such torrents that the targets at sea could with difficulty be seen. The business of the day was confined to shooting for the Lords' and Commons' prize at 1250 and 1500 yards.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon is at Vichy, where, it is to be hoped, he will find repose after his efforts to restore peace to Europe. On Sunday his Majesty attended mass in the new church at Vichy. The Bishop of Moulins received the Emperor, and addressed an allocution to his Majesty, who replied that he was always solicitous to come to the altar to ask guidance from God, in order to assure the welfare of religion and the great interests committed by Providence to his hands.

Prince Napoleon has left Italy on his way to visit the Emperor Napoleon at Vichy. Popular rumour attaches much importance to this visit, as his Majesty is attended by M. Drouyn de Lhuys and the Italian Envoy, with whom he holds daily consultations.

The *Moniteur* publishes a letter from the Emperor to the Minister of State, pointing out the bases of a decree relative to the formation of a fund for the benefit of those incapacitated from labour.

### ITALY.

The King of Italy arrived at Padua on Wednesday, and was warmly received by his new subjects, for such they may be now considered. The headquarters of the Italian army have been transferred from Rovigo to Padua. Royal decrees have been published promulgating the Italian Constitution in Venetia, terminating the Concordat entered into between Austria and the Holy See so far as concerns Venetia, and also abolishing religious corporations in that province.

The Florence journals announce the arrival in the capital of a deputation from Trent, instructed to present to the president of the Council of Ministers an address, signed by the communal representatives of that province, soliciting the annexation of the Trent province to Italy.

Rear-Admiral Vacca has been appointed by Royal decree to the provisional command of the Italian fleet. Captain Riboty has been appointed a Rear-Admiral on account of the distinguished part which he took in the battle of Lissa. A gold medal has been decreed to the family of the late Captain Cappellini, of the Palestro, who perished in the same battle. Proceedings have been commenced against Admiral Persano, and will be pushed forward with the greatest possible activity.

### PRUSSIA.

The Crown Princess of Prussia, who has been at the seaside at Heringsdorf, will shortly leave that place and proceed through Berlin to Silesia, where her Royal Highness will take part in the direction of the hospital arrangements for the soldiers wounded during the war.

The Common Council of Berlin held an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday to agree to an address to the King and Crown Prince on their return from the seat of war. The address, of which the contents will not be allowed to transpire before its presentation to the King, was adopted without discussion. A resolution was also agreed to that arrangements should be made for a grand illumination of Berlin on his Majesty's arrival.

A large number of respectable inhabitants of Rendsburg, together with the magistrate and town representatives of Oldesloe, have forwarded congratulatory addresses to King William. They ask for the definitive union of their country with Prussia as the condition of its future prosperity.

### HUNGARY.

Conferences between the most important members of the different political parties are constantly taking place at the seat of Herr Deak, at Szentlász, near Pesth. Archbishop Haynald has been summoned to Vienna. The re-establishment of the Hungarian Constitution of 1848 is still postponed, as a federal union between Austria and Hungary will be first proposed to the Hungarians by Austria.

M. Deak has published a statement of his views upon the present state of affairs. He expresses himself in favour of peace and the formation of a Hungarian Ministry, under the presidency of Count Andrássy. The editors of the Pesth journals have been requested to cease discussing the questions of constitutional reform for the present.

### THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Ministry has resigned, and Prince John Ghika has been intrusted with the formation of a new Cabinet, in which he will assume the post of President of the Council.

### COCHIN-CHINA.

Official intelligence received at Paris, dated June 12, announces that a number of natives of Cambodia, to whom the French had given an asylum in Cochin-China, had held tumultuous meetings near Tay Ninh. Captain Larclause, having endeavoured to reason with them, was massacred, together with Lieutenant Lisage and a few soldiers. A company has been sent from Saigon to restore tranquillity. The cause of this hostile demonstration is not known.

### AMERICA.

We have telegrams from New York, through the Atlantic telegraph, to Wednesday last, the 1st inst. Mr. Harlan, the Secretary of the Interior, had resigned. Mr. Browning, of Illinois, had been appointed his successor. Grant had been created a full General and Sherman a Lieutenant-General. Mr. Johnson had nominated Henry Stanberry Attorney-General.

It was officially reported that the Government receipts for the last twelve months exceed the expenditure by 185 million dollars.

The Tennessee Legislature having ratified the Constitutional Amendment, the House of Representatives at Washington, by a vote of 125 against 12, had passed the following resolution:—"That whereas Tennessee has ratified the Constitutional amendment, and shown to the satisfaction of Congress, by a proper spirit of obedience in the body of her people, her return to her due allegiance to the Government, laws, and authority of the United States, therefore Congress resolves that Tennessee is restored to her former practical relations to the Union, and is entitled to congressional representation." Governor Brownlow's message to Secretary Seward, announcing the ratification of the Constitutional amendment by Tennessee, contained insulting allusions to the President.

The bill offered by Mr. Stevens to restore all States to full political rights was defeated, and the resolution also offered by Mr. Stevens for the recess instead of the adjournment of Congress was likewise lost. Mr. Stevens declared his object was to enable Congress to control the President's action in the same manner as if it were in Session.

The cholera was spreading in New York, Brooklyn, and the neighbourhood.

COUNT BISMARCK AND THE PEOPLE OF FRANKFURT.—The following is the text of a despatch which Count von Bismarck addressed to General von Rödén, the Commandant at Frankfurt:—"The previous measures having failed to produce any effect up to the present time, you will have to adopt the following proceedings, commencing from six o'clock on the evening of the 26th of July:—1. Suspension of all communication by post, telegraph, and railway. 2. Closing of taverns and all public places. 3. Men or merchandise to be prevented from leaving or coming into the city." This despatch was communicated to the Senate and Chamber of Commerce.

BUILDING-LAND ROUND LONDON.—Owing to the clearance effected by the metropolitan railways, the Conservative Land Society acquired a valuable building property called the West London Estate, close to the station on the West London Railway, with extensive frontage to the New Richmond-road, North-end, Fulham, thus enabling the tenants of the houses to be erected on the land to communicate promptly and cheaply with all parts of London on both sides of the Thames. As this estate was bought with a view to accommodate specially the middle and working-classes dislodged by the new lines of railway, there was more than ordinary interest attached to the allotment on the 25th ult., and the sale of the building-plots was one of the largest ever made by the society. Particular attention has been paid to the opening of new roads and to the drainage in laying out the land.

SIR CHARLES HASTINGS, M.D., died at his residence, the Tything, Worcester, on Monday evening. The deceased gentleman, whose name as a medical man not only stood high in Worcester, but was known all over England, was the author of many standard medical and scientific works. He was the father of Mr. G. W. Hastings, secretary to the Social Science Association.

## THE WAR ON THE CONTINENT.

AN armistice for four months has been signed between Austria and Prussia. It seems, too, that Italy is satisfied, as the truce with Austria has been extended for another eight days in order to allow of the negotiations for an armistice being concluded within that time. The question of the Tyrol is settled; and the Italian accounts say that the Roman question is not to be raised in any congress.

It is supposed that the negotiations for peace between Prussia and Italy and Austria will be conducted at Prague.

According to the particulars that have at present transpired, the preliminaries of peace agreed to between Austria and Prussia are to the following effect:—

With the exception of Venetia, Austria suffers no loss of territory, but she cedes her co-possession of Schleswig-Holstein to Prussia.

Saxony, the only one of the German States included in the Austro-Prussian Treaty, will also preserve her territorial integrity, but with the reserve of further stipulations relative to her position in the North German Confederation and towards Prussia.

Austria pays Prussia a war indemnity of 40,000,000 thalers, from which 15,000,000 are to be deducted as the share due to Austria of the former Schleswig-Holstein war expenses, and 5,000,000 for further costs arising out of her occupation of the duchies. Until the payment of the remaining 20,000,000 thalers may be considered as secured Bohemia and Moravia will remain in Prussian occupation.

Austria secedes entirely from Confederation with the German States, and recognises the formation of a close Confederation of the North German States under Prussian leadership.

An alliance between the South German States and the settlement of their relations to the North German Confederation, are left for a free understanding between those States.

Austria recognises the changes of territorial possession to be effected in North Germany. As such are to be understood the arrangements which Prussia will make with regard to the countries now in her military occupation; that is to say, the King of Prussia is entitled by the laws of war to retain Hanover, Electoral Hesse, that portion of the grand duchy of Hesse to the north of the Maine, Nassau, and Frankfurt, without negotiation with their former possessors.

The restoration of any one of those Sovereigns would be an act of grace on the part of the Prussian Crown. But the restoration of individual portions of those States and their consequent division would probably be regarded with great disfavour by the populations, and entail serious political consequences; it is, therefore, considered desirable, and it is probable, that the above-mentioned States will be permanently united with Prussia. The peace preliminaries do not, however, contain special stipulations on this point, entire liberty of action being left to Prussia and recognised by Austria.

In order to guard against the disadvantages arising from an incorrect interpretation of the peace preliminaries concluded with Austria on the 26th ult., the Berlin *Official Gazette* publishes the text of Art. 2, which is as follows:—

The Austrian Emperor recognises the dissolution of the Germanic Confederation, and accedes to the new organisation of Germany without the participation of the Austrian Empire. The Emperor promises to recognise the closer Confederation which the King of Prussia may establish north of the line of the Main, and declares himself willing that the states south of that boundary should enter into an association, the national representation of which with the North German Confederation remains reserved for subsequent agreement between both parties. This article (continues the *Official Gazette*) is exactly identical with the proposals of mediation advocated by France at Vienna upon the 14th ult. Austria has, therefore, consented to allow the reorganisation of Germany to proceed without her participation. The empire thus belongs to the South German Union no more than the natural national tie between Northern and Southern Germany is torn asunder by the establishment of the Maine line of demarcation.

Saxony was included in the truce and armistice between the belligerents, but Bavaria was not, and Prussia continued warlike operations against that State. The Grand Duke of Mecklenburg has taken possession of Upper Franconia in the name of the King of Prussia. On Sunday morning the Prussian vanguard near Hof dispersed a battalion of Bavarian Life Guards, taking several of them prisoners. It is now reported, however, that Bavaria has also obtained a respite from Prussia. The *Official Gazette* of Munich complains that, under existing circumstances, a sanguinary engagement should have taken place between the Prussians and a battalion of the Bavarian Guard which had started from Munich, notwithstanding the officer in command of the Bavarians sent forward a flag of truce. An envoy has been dispatched to Bayreuth to obtain from the Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin an immediate suspension of hostilities.

The Sovereigns of Baden, Darmstadt, and Saxe-Meiningen are preferring requests for an armistice direct to the King of Prussia. The King of Hanover also sent one of his aides-de-camp to the Prussian headquarters, but King William refused to receive him. Prince Frederick William, Heir-Apparent of Electoral-Hesse, is said to have solicited the protection of France, in order to secure his hereditary rights of succession.

A telegram from Vienna states that the contribution imposed by Prussia upon Frankfurt has been reduced to 15,000,000 florins, of which 6,000,000 have been paid.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE of the Thames embankment on the south side was laid last Saturday afternoon, by Mr. Tite, M.P., in the presence of Lord John Manners and a large number of gentlemen. A good deal of progress has already been made in the works.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The report of the Registrar-General as to the health of the whole of London is a melancholy document. The total number of deaths in the week ending last Saturday was 2600, an excess of 1213 over the estimated number. This excess, says the Registrar, is caused entirely by cholera and diarrhoea. There were 904 deaths by cholera and 349 by diarrhoea. The progress of the disease has been rapid. In the last five weeks the numbers have been respectively—of cholera, 6, 14, 32, 346, and 904; of diarrhoea, 67, 102, 150, 221, and 349. Most of the diarrhoea cases are among children under five years of age. Of the deaths from cholera last week 179 were children under five years of age; 160 boys and girls under twenty years; 455 men and women in the prime of life; and 110 people over sixty years of age. By far the greater part of these deaths have occurred in a limited district of East London, supplied with water by the East London waterworks, which draws its supply from the river Lea. Surely this is a matter for the most immediate attention. The picture drawn by the Registrar-General of the condition of the district in which the epidemic rages is most ghastly and appalling. It is an additional horror to be told that the local authorities are paralysed, and have nothing like a sufficient staff to cope with the dread pestilence. From Dr. Letheby we have the gratifying report that the health of the city of London is not unfavourable. There were last week fewer cases of fever and diarrhoea than in the corresponding week last year. Dr. Letheby, however, very wisely urges that every sanitary precaution should be taken, and that measures should be adopted by which any outbreak of cholera could be promptly met.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—The harvest will, it is expected, become general in Norfolk at the commencement of next week. The wheat crop is generally level and good in Norfolk, and a full average yield is anticipated. Barleys are heavy on all the good lands, and oats and peas are also abundant. The harvest will become general in the Lincolnshire fens this week. Already the cutting of peas has been commenced, and oats are ready for the scythe. In the neighbourhood of Spalding more than an average yield of wheat is anticipated, while potatoes and root crops look remarkably well. On the Louth wolds, &c., everything looks promising. In the Isle of Ely the cutting of oats has been commenced, and wheat-cutting will be general by the end of the week. A few rumours prevail as to potato disease in this district. About Godmanchester the harvest is expected to be attended with excellent results. Complaints are made in Norfolk of a deficiency of labour. Harvest wages are irregular, varying from £3 15s. to £7; but, generally, the price is 10s. above the terms current in August, 1865. The harvest has commenced in the Newmarket district as regards wheat, barley, and oats, and it will be general by the end of the week. The crop of wheat is expected to prove a full average. In consequence of emigration and the high price of labour in other parts of the country, many of the farmers are complaining of an insufficiency of men for the harvest work. Harvest operations have also commenced in Essex, Herts, and the neighbouring districts. In Leicestershire harvest prospects are, on the whole, of a cheering character. The appearance of the wheat crops is generally satisfactory, and on the strong loamy soils (should the weather prove favourable) some excellent samples will be obtained. An average yield of this well, the plant having been greatly improved by the recent rains. The yield, in all probability, will be a full average, and of excellent quality. Of the corn crops oats are the worst of the season, and the yield will be deficient. Cutting has commenced, but progresses slowly. Beans are doing an abundant crop. Peas promise well. The rains of the past few days have also been of great service to the turnips, mangolds, and pastures. Potatoes are, on the whole, looking well. There are complaints of a scarcity of labour, and farmers will, no doubt, have to use machinery on a rather extensive scale during the harvest.



### TRIAL OF BREECH-LOADERS.

AN interesting trial of breech-loading rifles took place on Friday, the 27th ult., in the grounds of Beaufort House, the head-quarters of the South Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, whose Colonel, Lord Ranelagh, was one of the first advocates of a system against which, until very lately, all our generals and high military authorities set the united weight of their opinion. The long room, which serves as the school of arms, theatre, and place of meeting, was nearly filled by inventors and persons interested in the improvement of military weapons, there being present several American and European agents commissioned by their respective Governments to watch the development of the breech-loading principle or personally concerned in matters relating thereto. One of the most notable of these strangers was Mr. Lamson, Flag-Lieutenant of the American Commodore's ship in the Mediterranean. This young officer attended for the purpose of showing the Ball rifle, for the manufacture of which his father is under a contract with the Government of the United States. Of this rifle we shall have to speak in its turn. Perhaps the highest tribute that could be paid to its excellence was conveyed in the fact that every gunmaker and exhibitor approved it as being the next best to his own.

By the direction of Lord Ranelagh, each person present having a rifle to show stepped upon the stage and gave a short explanation of it, answering such questions as were put to him from among the audience. Mr. Daw came first with the Cochran, a breech-loading rifle with a lever, the action of which expels the cartridge after explosion, and reloads. This arm has few pieces, is very solid, and is strongest in the breech part, so that in close quarters with the enemy it can very well be used as a club. Its mechanism is simple, and easily understood by an amateur. It can be supplied, Mr. Daw said, in answer to a question by a military man, at 55s. Dr. Miller followed with one of Burton's needle breech-loaders, having a bolt which comes loose, and which contains a spiral spring and hammer, on a very old plan. The exploded cartridge is drawn by a claw, which gets hold of the copper rim and draws it out. Though very simple, this is one of the breech-loaders which cannot be adapted to conversions. As, however, its price hardly exceeds 30s., the impossibility of making it serviceable for the alteration of Enfields or other muzzle-loading rifles does not matter very much.

Mr. Lamson, the American officer above named, then came on the stage with his Ball breech-loader, and was exceedingly well received. There had, in fact, been a crowd round this extraordinary weapon for some time previous to the public explanations, and nearly everybody in the room knew something about it before Mr. Lamson began to speak. This rifle has a magazine running below the barrel, and capable of holding ten cartridges. It resembles in this respect, and in this respect only, the Henry American repeating rifle; and in all other points it differs most essentially from that as well as from the Spencer. The cartridges are introduced, not at the muzzle end, as in the American Henry, nor through the stock, as with the Spencer carbine, but by an opening at the breech. There is an air space between the magazine and the barrel, so that, in the event of the latter becoming heated, no explosion of the reserve charge is possible. By an ingenious and at the same time simple contrivance, any mistake of the soldiers in loading is rectified when he attempts to fire. Supposing that one of his cartridges may, in the excitement and haste of action, have been put in wrong end first, the mechanism rejects that cartridge and pitches it unceremoniously aside, as if it were empty. But the most valuable as well as novel characteristic of the Ball rifle is its capability of retaining a magazine full or half full of ammunition as a reserve; while the soldier, not being immediately pressed, can load and shoot with singly inserted cartridges. Then, should it come to need of hasty firing, he has his store of rounds ready and waiting to be discharged in succession as quick as that of a revolver. The American Government ammunition—a rim-igniting copper cartridge—is used in this rifle. Despite the appearances of a complexity which may almost be likened to clockwork, the Ball is really a very simple arm, its lock being devoid of tumbler, sear, and two or three other parts not usually dispensed with. When filled, this rifle weighs a quarter of a pound less than the Enfield unloaded. It is proper to state however, that the barrel is not more than 31 in. in length, the Ball rifle being fashioned after a theory that precision for military purposes is not gained by increasing the length beyond that measure. The worst thing apparently to be urged against this rifle is that, unless the soldier counts the discharges, he cannot tell when he has fired off all the ammunition in the magazine. It is therefore probable that, having blazed away successfully for a time, he may be pulled up by a miss-fire, there being in fact nothing left to explode.

An improved converted Mont Storm, of great merit, was next shown, and then came Davis's patent breech-loading needle-gun, with straps for holding it in a position to fire from the hip. The kind of ammunition in use for this rifle, which is an old Enfield converted, is made with wire gauze, providing for expansion. Mr. Kerr followed with a Remington, the simplest of breech-loaders, and one of the most efficient, as its probation at the Wimbledon meeting fully demonstrated. It is not suitable for purposes of conversion; but, like another rifle already described, it is so cheap that a new and complete arm may be had for little more than the cost of altering a muzzle-loader. An objection to the Remington rifle was hinted by Lord Ranelagh, the gist of which was that the act of loading must be performed with the gun at full cock. But Mr. Kerr explained that this is no longer the fact with improved Remingtons. He then exhibited the Berdan converted Enfield, which at Wimbledon stood in the first rank for accuracy. Mr. C. F. Dennet, long known in this country as the representative of Colonel Colt, recalled the circumstances of his having been told by the British Government first that revolvers were not wanted, and next that arms could never be made by machinery. The value of revolvers was found out in the Kaffir War, and was subsequently raised to a higher pitch of estimation in the Crimea and in India. He now showed the needle-gun, which had been offered to the British Government in 1853, and the improved Snider, with the invention by Potts and Hunt for throwing out the cartridge without fatigue to the muscles of the arm. Mr. Riley then brought forward the extremely simple breech-loader, on Green's plan, which retains the muzzle-loading capability, in case of its being needed. This is a cap gun, which is, perhaps, its only drawback. On the other hand, there is no case to extract, as the exploded cartridge is done with; and there are no small springs, spiral or other, to get out of repair. Similar to Green's is the breech-loading rifle of Messrs. Benjamin and Byrne's invention. It is a nipple gun, and can only be loaded when the hammer is down. In Green's, the escape of gas, which is considerable, finds a counteractive agent in the indiarubber washer, while the evil is met in the rifle of Messrs. Benjamin and Byrne by a disc of soft metal. It is practicable to convert Enfields by the application of their design, though no such conversion has yet been effected. Dugall's patent lock-fast rifle, the double-barrelled sporting gun used by the Prince of Wales, was shown by the manufacturer, who apologised very modestly for bringing forward an arm not strictly military in character. It is a revival of an old system, as Mr. Dugall said, its shallow grooves and long spirals permitting the heaviest charges, and by consequence causing the greatest velocity. By this rifle are fired bomb-bullets, charged with an explosive compound formed of sulphure of antimony and chloride of potassium. These little shells will, it is said, burst in passing through so slightly resistant a body as a mangold-wurtzel. Russ's patent converted Enfield, which dispenses with the springs employed in the Snider, and which allows the retention of the old plan of muzzle-loading, was next shown. Mr. Russ's rifle made good firing at Wimbledon, especially in the hands of Captain Banting. It was on Friday introduced with some improvements, the chief of which was the substitution of a central fire for a pin cartridge. Smith's carbine, an American cavalry arm, which fires the singular ammunition known as the Poulteney cartridge, was next exhibited. It failed in the late war, because paper cartridges were used; but now it is fitted with the copper rim-igniting cartridge, peculiarly constructed for ease in the extraction, by the mere hold of the finger and thumb. The rim,

instead of being at the head, is nearly half way down the tube, encircling it like a ring. The cartridge is thus stopped from entirely entering the chamber, and leaves a convenient case to be taken hold of. Next came Captain Fosbery, B.C., with a rifle somewhat resembling the Mont Storm, though with some marked points of difference. Mr. Craig then showed a breech-loader of a distinct and original design, the chief peculiarity of which, however, was no more than the throwing up of the expelled cartridge case like a champagne cork. Lord Ranelagh having shown and briefly commented on the first breech-loading rifle used, not very successfully, in the United States, and having also exhibited Sharpe's improvement, which failed rather more signally, said he had been requested by Mr. Westley Richards, in that gentleman's unavoidable absence, to bring forward his improved breech-loader. This his Lordship accordingly did, pointing out how the former drawbacks had all been got over, how the cartridge difficulty had been obviated, how the central fire did away with the cap, and how an extractor had been provided. An exhibition of the Prussian needle-gun, with some amendments by Potts and Hunt, terminated the proceedings in the room, and the company then repaired to the shooting-ground.

It having been premised that the differences in ammunition should be allowed for, the firing began with the Cochran, which Mr. Daw shot for rapidity, getting off eleven cartridges in the minute. Mr. Kerr then fired the Remington nineteen times in the same space of time. The Smith carbine was fired eleven times in the minute, the last shot being fired as the time was called. Prince's converted gun was then fired twelve times in the minute; and then, on the trial of the improved Mont Storm, a few defective cartridges spoiled the shooting of this breech-loader, causing, indeed, repeated miss-fires. Mr. Lamson fired his Ball breech-loader, from the magazines, getting off the ten shots in half a minute. The ammunition with which this gentleman was furnished was merely a makeshift; and, quick as the firing was, it might have been more rapid had proper cartridges been at hand. Some experiments were then made by Mr. Daw, with a view to prove the excellence of his paper cartridge, which, after serving two or three times, looks as if the case were new. In a trial of the Barton rifle, for rapid firing, fourteen shots had been got off in forty-five seconds, when a slight accident checked the further trial of this rifle. The rim-igniting cartridge of one of the charges exploded as it was being forced into the chamber of the breech; and while the bullet took its regular course through the barrel, the powder, or a part of it, flashed back, nearly blinding an attendant. The Benjamin and Byrne's rifle, not being fitted with suitable ammunition, made but a poor exhibition; and the original Snider came off rather worse. The Berdan, fired by Mr. Kerr, made thirteen good shots in the minute, a fourteenth being just ready as time was called. Dr. Ehrhardt, the inventor of a new explosive substance designed to take the place of gunpowder, was among the visitors on Friday at Beaufort House. His account of the material represents it as consisting of two ingredients, which are non-explosive except in combination. He claims for it, further, the qualities of being thrice the strength of ordinary powder; of its leaving no residuum, and causing no smoke; and of its enabling the attainment of an amazing velocity. On the whole, this trial of many different kinds of breech-loading rifles was instructive to a serviceable extent, though it may be observed with regret that two or three of the most justly famous arms were unrepresented.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has made arrangements with the Austrian Government to have the remains of Napoleon II. (better known as the Duke of Reichstadt), son of Napoleon I. and the Empress Maria Louisa, removed to France, with a view to their deposition in the Hospital of the Invalides, near those of his illustrious father.

MR. CAVE, the new Vice-President of the Board of Trade, in a recent speech at Shoreham, asserted that the manufactory belonging to the honourable member for Birmingham was one of the worst conducted in the kingdom. Mr. Mills, manager to Messrs. Bright and Co., has taken Mr. Cave to task, and that gentleman has withdrawn what he stated, apologising for saying it.

THE CELEBRATED NEEDLE-GUN has again been tried at Châlons, and found wanting. About 150 of these weapons were put into the hands of the Guards, and the commission has reported that these rifles are not suitable to French troops.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held, on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. The secretary having read the minutes of the previous meeting, rewards amounting to £27 were granted to the crews of the life-boats of the institution stationed at Arklow, Courtown, and Cahore, for various services in the boats during the past month. A reward of £12 was also voted to the crews of the fishing-smacks Water Lily and Jane of Beer, near Axminster, and £2 to each man of the crews of two smaller boats belonging to Budleigh Salterton, for their valuable services during a thick fog on the 10th of July, while fishing some distance outside Torbay, in assisting to bring ashore the officers and crew of H.M.S. Amazon and the steamer Osprey, which vessels had sunk after being in a collision a short time previously. A communication was read from Robert Whitworth, Esq., of Manchester, stating that he had received £1000 for the institution from a lady giving the initials of H.W. That amount was intended for two life-boats, one of which was to be named the William Woodcock. She had approved of her gift being appropriated in renovating the Lyme Regis station and in providing a new life-boat for Llanddwyn, near Carnarvon. Captain J. McGregor had handed to the institution the handsome sum of £40, being the half share of the profits realised by his interesting work on the "Rob Roy Canoe." At the suggestion of Colonel Hargreaves a collection amounting to £16 16s., in aid of the funds of the institution, had been made in the volunteer camp at Lytham, after a sermon by the Rev. R. Robinson. New life-boats had been sent during the past month to Harborough, Gorleston, Ballycotton, and Brightstone Grange; and on Thursday next a new life-boat will be launched at Margate, when either the Duchess of Sutherland or the Countess Fitz-William will be present to name the boat. Earl Percy presented to the institution a fine portrait of the late Duke of Northumberland, who had been its president for many years. It was stated that Captain Montagu Pasco, R.N., had handed to the institution an instalment of £105, which he had collected in the London southern district, in aid of the cost of a new life-boat. Edward Absalom, Esq., of Rood-lane and Snaresbrook, was also using his best efforts to increase the annual subscriptions of the institution. Legacies had been received during the past month from the executors of the late George Anstie, Esq., of Chipping Norton, £67 10s.; the late George Scott, Esq., of Warborough, £45; and the late Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan, of Cheltenham, £204. It was also reported that the late Mrs. Story, of Kensington, had left the institution a legacy of £500 to defray the cost of a life-boat. Payments amounting to £2350 having been made on various life-boat establishments, the proceedings terminated.

SANITARY MATTERS AT THE EAST-END.—On Tuesday Mr. Hemphreys, Coroner, held an inquiry at the Black Bull Tavern, Chilton-street, Brick-lane, touching the death of J. Holdham, aged nine years. The deceased was one of five children of a labourer, earning 14s. a week, 4s. of which were paid for the rent of two rooms at No. 32, Chilton-street. On Wednesday week the boy fell ill, and his father went at noon the next day to Mr. Haycock, surgeon, believing him to be the parish doctor. Mr. Haycock, although no longer parish surgeon, kindly visited the boy, gave him medicine, and directed the father to apply at the Bethnal-green workhouse for a medical order. It being after eleven o'clock, a.m., it was seven o'clock before the applicant received an order. He took it at once to Mr. Massingham, the parish surgeon, telling him that the case was urgent. Mr. Massingham, after some demur, said that, if he could, he would call that evening; but he did not call till Friday at half-past three o'clock. The deceased had then been dead eight hours. Witnesses described the premises where the deceased's parents lived as being in a most unhealthy condition. The water poured into the cellar-floor and remained stagnant there, producing such a stench that the people were unwilling to go in, and generally begged water from neighbours. The same cellar was used as a dust-hole, and the dust was cleared out about three times in eighteen months. Mr. Waring, the landlord, refused to give a water-but, because it would be "too expensive." Complaints were made at the Townhall three months ago of the state of the place. Mr. G. Haycock said that the deceased died from typhoid fever. On the premises in question the drains were untrapped, and the place had not been whitewashed for years. Nos. 30, 34, and 36, Chilton-street were in a similar condition. This state of things, of course, lowered vitality, and rendered recovery from disease very difficult. The Coroner remarked upon the great danger to public health from the neglect disclosed, now the cholera had commenced its ravages. The jury, after consulting together, returned the following special verdict:—"That the deceased died from typhoid fever, from natural causes, but accelerated by the absence of sanitary arrangements; that the parish doctor ought to have attended the deceased at once when he received the order; that great blame attached to the parish authorities for allowing the premises to remain in the same filthy condition after complaint had been made to them; that greater facilities should be given to obtain medical orders, the times, limited as at present, being prejudicial to the poor; and that this verdict be forwarded to the Poor-Law Board."

### A FORGERY UPON MR. GLADSTONE.

The following correspondence appears in the *Globe* on Tuesday night:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "GLOBE."

11, Carlton House-terrace, S.W., July 30, 1866.

Sir,—Mr. Beales obligingly requested to see me on Saturday, when he placed the following letter in my hands. It is forged.

In it I am made to declare that I sympathise with the Reform League, and that I was ready to take part in their projected meeting; and the writer, who is an adept in his art, guards against discovery by deprecating a reply, and appears in the person of my son, lest, if he had written in mine, the false handwriting should be detected.

I request you to be so good as to publish the letter, since it is only by publication that I can defend myself and others against similar fabrications, and the delusions they are intended to produce.

Will you further oblige me by returning the document, which is in original?—I have the honour to be, Sir, your very faithful servant,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

11, Carlton House-terrace, July 26, 1866.

(Strictly private and confidential.)

Dear Sir,—My father requests me to say on his behalf that, while he sympathises with the Reform League, he cannot but feel that the cause which it espouses is likely to suffer through the lawless conduct of some who care nothing for reform, but are only too glad of a pretext to indulge in riot and disorder. If you can arrange, "on the ground of general convenience," that your proposed meeting for Monday next shall take place on Primrose-hill instead of in Hyde Park, you will adopt a plan which will sift the "roughs" from the reformers, and give an opportunity for some real friends of reform to appear as independent supporters of your league. I am authorised to state that not only my father, but some other influential friends of the people, will address the meeting, if assembled, as herein suggested, on Primrose-hill. Please do not answer this letter, as it may be convenient to be able to repudiate the idea of any correspondence having taken place between the council of the Reform League and members or supporters of the late Government. If you think your cause will gain by admitting Parliamentary supporters as virtual members of the Reform League, speaking to the people out of doors as of them and with them, you can readily make the requisite change in your programme for Monday next. Yours faithfully,

Edmond Beales, Esq.

W. H. GLADSTONE.

### A QUESTION OF PRECEDENCE.

RECENT events in Germany may be productive of some problems in our social system. The King of Hanover may, under certain contingencies, lose his throne. He may, therefore, return to this country, resume his rank as Duke of Cumberland, and descend from the heights of sovereign rule to become a junior member of our Royal family. The circumstance of the succession to the throne of Hanover by the late Duke of Cumberland has left open a question of precedence and dignity among those descending from a Royal stock. The children of the King of Hanover are the only members of our Royal family in the fourth generation from the Sovereign. It is a matter of doubt what would be their title and precedence. The Act of Henry VIII., regulating precedence, gives rank only to such of the Royal family as are sons, brothers, uncles, grandsons, or nephews of the Sovereign. The eldest son of a Duke of the Royal blood takes rank after Dukes, and the younger sons after earls, by tables of precedence dating respectively 1399 and 1485. They certainly are not entitled to the qualification of "Royal Highness." In fact, that appellation was never even given to the grandson of a Sovereign until the marriage of the late Duke of Gloucester to the daughter of George III. Previously, his qualification had been simply "his Highness." Perhaps the eldest son of the present Duke of Cumberland would be entitled to the prefix, together with the title of "Prince;" but the title of the younger sons would be that only of "Lord George" or "Lord Henry," like the sons of any other duke. On the death of the present Duke of Cumberland his eldest son would succeed to his dukedom, taking rank among Dukes only according to the date of his patent. The younger sons would remain as they were, and their children would degenerate into plain esquires, presenting the anomaly of untitled persons, who are nevertheless in the succession to the Throne. The title "Royal Highness" is one which has given rise to many disputes. When Napoleon wrote from the Bellerophon to George IV., then Prince Regent, the latter observed that it was the most proper letter he had ever received. He referred to the fact that it began "Altesse Royale," a dignity which, though claimed by French Princes, was never conceded by them, even in exile, to the Princes of England. The younger sons of France claimed equality with Sovereigns, whom they addressed as "brothers;" and "Royal Highness" was originally the exclusive privilege of Sovereigns. Even some minor Sovereigns did not aspire to it. The late Duke of Coburg, father to the Prince Consort, never, till the marriage of his son with the Queen, assumed any style but that of "Serene Highness." Since then the "Royal Highness" has been twice conferred by her Majesty—once on Prince Louis of Hesse, and more recently on Prince Christian. While the right of her Majesty to confer such title is unquestioned, it is clear that the title confers no rank. In fact, Prince Christian, except by courtesy, will enjoy no precedence whatever in England; nor will his children have any legal status in this country except as esquires. The same may be said of Prince Teck and his children, whose precedence in this country will rest solely on the grounds of courtesy and hospitality. A Princess of England, though she transmits the right of succession, can confer no interim advantage of precedence or degree. Among many conventional errors none is so great as that of styling Princess Mary Princess Mary of Cambridge. Had her father never been created Duke of Cambridge her Royal Highness would still have been Princess Mary of Great Britain, her real appellation. The titles of the father's dukedom have been added for the sake of distinction, as when there were two Prince Georges—one the son of the Duke of Cumberland, the other the Duke of Cambridge. But to adopt this form when there are no duplicates is a clear redundancy and vulgarity.—*The Owl.*

MONUMENT TO THE LATE KING OF THE BELGIANS.—The Queen having determined to erect a monument in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, to the memory of the late King of the Belgians, the execution of the work has been intrusted to Miss Durant, who is already well known to the public by various statues and busts. The monument has advanced so far that the clay model is completed, and an opportunity is thus afforded of forming an opinion of the design and effect of the whole. The aged monarch is represented as stretched on the bed of death, by the side of which lies crouched, but with head erect, the Belgian lion, on whose shaggy mane the right hand of the departing King has dropped, and rests in quiet strength. On the other side of the couch stand two guardian angels, presenting two shields emblazoned with the arms of England and Belgium. The effect of the whole group is that of peace and repose—of a calm end after a busy, restless life. We may congratulate Miss Durant on having successfully executed a very difficult task; how difficult let St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey, and, though last, not least, St. George's Chapel, Windsor, bear witness. One thing is quite certain, that this memorial, when reproduced in marble, will be a welcome sight to eyes which turn in disgust from the tasteless effigy of Princess Charlotte, which excites the dismay of the visitor to St. George's Chapel. We believe it is intended that the two monuments shall stand close together in the Royal Chapel, and the esthetic observer will hardly fail to remark, as he stands before them, that the art of monumental sculpture, which, together with all the arts, was said at the time of her early death to be buried in the grave of the youthful Princess, has risen again in our days, when he compares the monument of the youthful wife with that of the husband who so long survived her.

### "GOOD HEALTH." "OUR FATHER."

It is very commonly and very reasonably said that sculpture is the most difficult of arts. It might be added that it is the art in which, of all arts, people choose the most difficult subjects. Childhood is always difficult to reproduce; but Mr. Bell and Mr. Adams have each chosen a study of a child in one of the most difficult of moments. In both the praying boy, and the girl who is drinking to your good health in cold water, the artist has labelled his work, and we present our readers with these copies, not because the originals belong to the highest order of work, but because the subjects are of a kindly character, appealing to the domestic sympathies. Nothing can make a statue of a child look nice with an artificially-disposed strip of clothing on the little body. Every mother will agree that these babes would look ever so much prettier if they stood before us just as they show when they are "tubbed" in the morning.

### THE IMPERIAL VISIT TO NANCY.

AFFAIRS of state, more particularly connected with the negotiations for the peace of Europe, having prevented the Emperor of the French from making his intended journey through Lorraine, that duty has fallen on the Empress, who, with the Prince Imperial, has gladdened the good and loyal people of that province by the sweet courtesy and genuine kindness that she has every where displayed in her visits to the various towns. Amongst other incidents illustrative of her goodness of heart, it is said that on one occasion, when passing through a village where she heard that the peasants in a field by the roadside had been waiting ever since daybreak to get a sight of her, she alighted from her carriage, and, after walking across the field, shook hands with them in the simplest and most friendly way imaginable. This was after the Imperial party had passed through Bar-le-Duc; but they had previously spent some



time at Epernay, where, in a tent prepared for the occasion, the Empress and the Prince received the authorities, and her Majesty presented the cross of the Legion of Honour to the Abbé Appert, senior Curé of the place; and to M. Moët, formerly Mayor of the town. At a quarter to three the Imperial train continued its way to Châlons, where it arrived at half-past three. The city was

The Empress here also distributed decorations. At half-past seven she gave a dinner of sixty covers, the prefect sitting at her right. Afterwards a ball took place, given by the town, and at which the Imperial party remained to a late hour. All the houses were illuminated. Next morning the travellers left for Bar-le-Duc, where they arrived a little before noon, and were received by Marshal Forey and the authorities. The town was dressed out, and the crowds from the neighbouring districts were considerable. The assemblage of persons in the streets was so dense that the Imperial cortège could scarcely arrive at the church of Notre Dame. The same was the case after the celebration of Divine service, on the passage to the prefecture, where her Majesty held a reception, leaving afterwards for Nancy. At Bar-le-Duc the Prince Imperial was presented with a toothsome selection of the comfits and "dragees" for the manufacture of which the place is celebrated. It is said that his Imperial Highness has taken home a chest of sweetmeats large enough to last him until he attains his majority.

At Nancy the Empress was received at the cathedral by the Bishop, to whose welcome her Majesty replied in a most gracious manner, and then advanced beneath a canopy of cloth of gold borne by the Canons to a throne, magnificently decorated, which had been prepared at the right of the altar. The Archbishop of Paris ascended the pulpit and delivered an eloquent sermon, which was followed by a "Te Deum." The benediction was given by the five Bishops in attendance, after which her Majesty was reconducted to the doors of the cathedral with the same ceremony as on arriving. This religious solemnity, celebrated with the greatest pomp of the Church, heightened by the presence of thirty Canons wearing their sacerdotal ornaments, and of more than 300 priests assembled from all parts of Lorraine, will leave a lasting impression on the minds of all who witnessed it. On leaving the cathedral the Empress and the Prince Imperial entered a state carriage, and passed through a double line of the population to a dais on the Place Stanislas, facing the Bishop's residence. Then commenced the filing off of the deputations from the different departments around, numbering more than 30,000 persons. Besides the municipal authorities of all the communes of the Meurthe and the Vosges, and a portion of those of the Moselle and the Meuse, there were thirty companies of firemen, each preceded by its music; the men of the salt works of St. Nicholas and Varangeville, followed by a car drawn by six horses, and containing several immense blocks of rock salt; also a large number of orpheonist societies; 600 riflemen of the Vosges mountains in their national costume; representatives of the mutual benefit societies; workmen from all the large manufactories of the ancient province, carrying their tools or some emblem of their particular industry; the whole preceding a deputation from the village of Domremy, the birthplace of Joan of Arc, and carrying the banner presented by the town of Orleans to the commune in memory of the heroic maid with whom the name of that city is so intimately connected; the rear of the cortège was closed by a procession of 1500 public teachers. The Imperial visit was designed to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the annexation of Nancy to France on the death of Stanislas of Poland in 1766; and perhaps the most interesting portion of the cavalcade was that which was designed to represent the historical costumes of the province. This part of the procession is represented in our Engraving at the moment of its passing the entrance of the ancient ducal palace in the old town of Nancy, where the decorations were in accordance with the antiquity of the locality. This long procession lasted two hours, and was effected in perfect order, and amid continued shouts of "Vive l'Empereur!" "Vive l'Impératrice!" and "Vive le Prince Impérial!" Her Majesty afterwards appeared at the balcony of the Stanislas Palace, and presented the Prince Imperial to the people, who responded with the most enthusiastic acclamations. On the following morning the Empress visited the hospitals and charitable institutions; afterwards, her Majesty received the municipal authorities and about 200 ladies of the town and the department, and was then present at the races held there, and where another ovation from the loyal population awaited her.

they have kept open for the purpose. The country people round Vienna also began to seek safety in the capital, and repair thither in considerable numbers, taking their farming stock with them, in obedience to a general order that the inhabitants of the district within a radius of eight miles should present themselves at Vienna. It may easily be imagined what a sorrowful spectacle is



"GOOD HEALTH."—(AFTER THE SCULPTURE BY J. BELL, IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.)

dressed out with flags, and in several of the streets triumphal arches were erected. The keys of the city were presented by the Mayor; and at the entrance of the cathedral the Bishop, attended by his clergy, received the Imperial travellers and delivered an address. The Empress and Prince afterwards proceeded to the prefecture, where, at five o'clock, a reception was held of all the authorities and principal inhabitants.



"OUR FATHER."—(AFTER THE SCULPTURE BY J. G. ADAMS, IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.)

#### COUNTRY PEOPLE SEEKING REFUGE IN VIENNA.

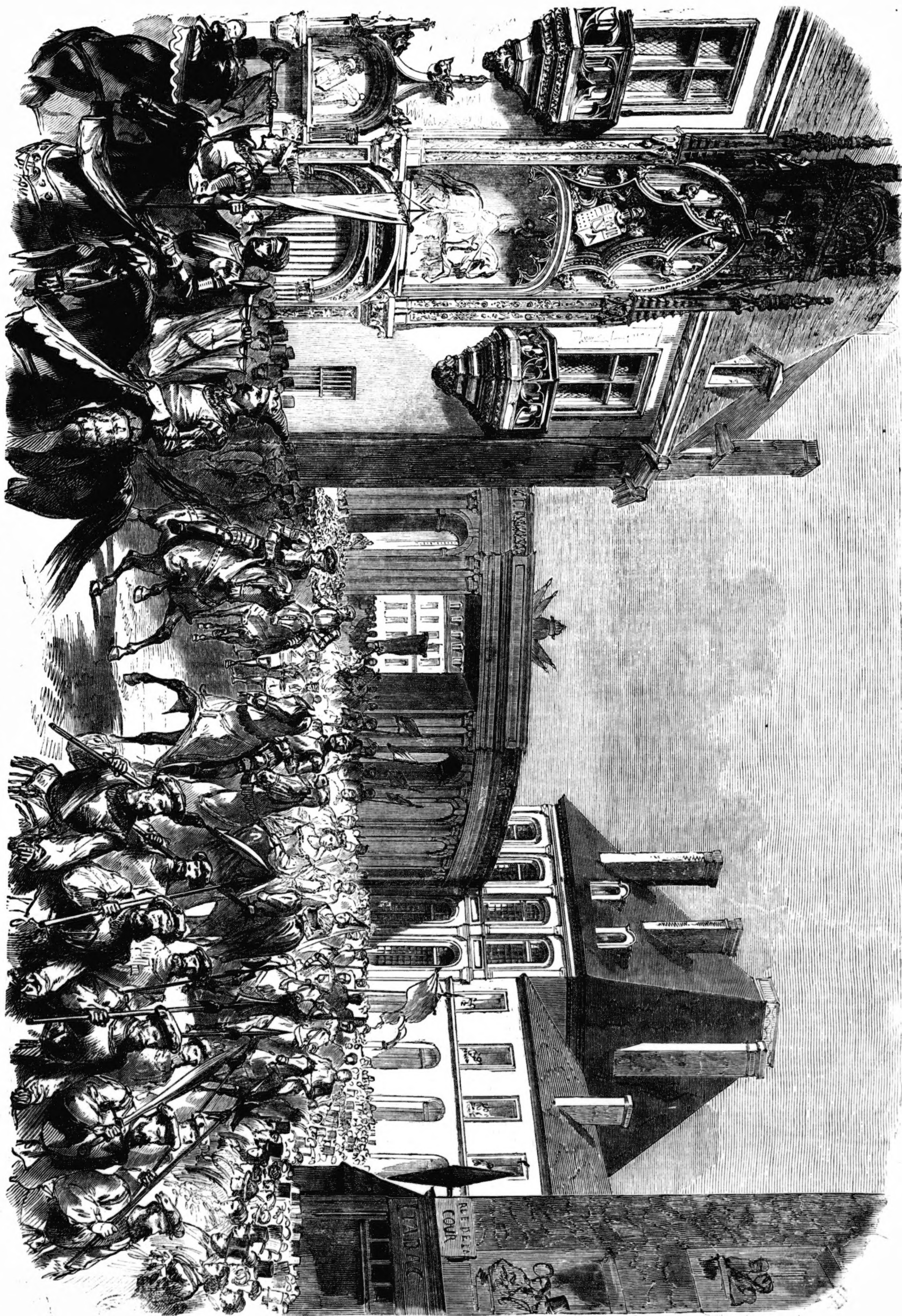
FOR some time past, in anticipation of the Prussian army drawing more closely towards Vienna, provisions and supplies of all kinds have been carefully collected from the surrounding districts and conveyed within the fortifications, so that the enemy would find nothing but a bare country, with very little chance of victualling their troops, except by means of the railway communication which

presented by the families of these poor people, who have left their homes, perhaps for ever, and, if they return, will only do so to find the houses where they and their ancestors were born burnt to the ground or beaten to ruins by the Prussian or their own countrymen's artillery. Our Engraving represents one of these melancholy groups of emigrants crossing the bridge of Taborbrücke, on their approach to the fortifications.



AUSTRIAN PEASANTS FLYING TO VIENNA FOR REFUGE ON THE APPROACH OF THE PRUSSIAN.





PIERRE AT NANCY ON OCCASION OF THE IMPERIAL VISIT: HISTORICAL PROCESSION STARTING FROM THE PLACE CARRIÈRE.



## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 289.

ALL GENTLEMEN.

"THE House of Commons is an assembly of gentlemen, English gentlemen, Sir!" Who has not heard this boast a hundred times? And it is no vain, empty boast; for whatever may be a man's social position—though he may be a trader, or even a shopkeeper—his election to serve in Parliament constitutes him by rule and courtesy a gentleman; and the moment he enters the House he rises at once to the level of the highest man there. He may stand behind a counter and serve out tea, and sugar, and bacon all the morning—and we have had many shopkeepers in the House, and have some now, but in the House he is a gentleman. In an official document he is designated Esquire, and when he is alluded to in a debate he is styled the honourable gentleman. In America every member of Congress has the prefix "honourable" attached to his name; members of Parliament have not this title; but, unquestionably, they have a right to be called and considered gentlemen; and, as a rule, every member is really recognised here as a gentleman, and all the courtesy due to a gentleman, whatever may be a member's calling out of doors, is paid to him, publicly and privately, without stint. Thus, if either the lordliest of Lords descended from a Norman knight, or the owner of half a shire, has to meet a shopkeeper, or the knight of the shire, he will meet the same shopkeeper, not only with courtesy, but as an equal. Indeed, if my Lords were to give themselves airs and treat the shopkeeper as an inferior, they would be laughed at, and be by common consent relegated to the category of snobs. And, further, my Lord will not hesitate to consult the shopkeeper on matters of business before the House or scruple to gossip with him in the lobby. In short, membership of the House of Commons, within a certain limit, obliterates all social and conventional distinctions; and, if the time should ever come when artisans shall be elected to the House, they will be at once, by mere election, transmuted into gentlemen and placed upon a level with the noblest and wealthiest in the House. And why should it not be so? These titles are only artificial. The Queen can make a belted knight, and stamp a commoner with nobility. There are members of the House of Peers whose immediate ancestors worked in factories; and there are Baronets whose fathers wore wooden shoes; and why should not membership of the House of Commons make a man a gentleman?

EQUALITY.

But it may be asked is this equality truly a reality, or is it something only skin deep—a sort of conventional fiction? Well, we have already hinted that it is real—we may, however, say that it is, within a certain wide range, a solid fact; far more so than it used to be at the beginning of this century. Fifty or sixty years ago Canning, in the *Anti-Jacobin*, lampooned Whitbread as a brewer of beer; and long after that Peel used to be sneered at as the cotton-spinner's son. And, no doubt, the trader in the House of Commons laboured under great disadvantages then. But all this has wonderfully changed. If a man have the requisite talents he may push himself to the front, though all the morning he may be serving at a counter. He will not be able to do it, perhaps, quite so easily as he would if he were a Lord. Here, as everywhere, there is still a sort of divinity that doth hedge a Lord; and, *ceteris paribus*, the Lord, in a struggle for fame, has an advantage over a trader. But not much; nothing like what Lords had half a century ago. Truth is, the traders are too strong in numbers and too wealthy now to be snubbed; and then it must be remembered the line between trade and rank has of late been well-nigh obliterated. Thus, is not my Lord Topknot a banker in the City? Does not the Marquis of Cocketown deal in coals, and make out his invoices in due trader's form?—"Mr. So-and-So, Dr. to the Marquis of Cocketown, so many tons of coal." And does not a noble family in the west draw the largest portion of its wealth from the chief manufacture of Ireland? Not to mention the host of lords, baronets, &c., who began as chairmen or directors of trading companies. It would not do for our aristocracy now to sneer at trade; for a considerable number of them are themselves traders. The heir of a peerage is chairman of a company for the manufacture of an article for domestic use; the inheritor of an ancient name is the director of a dozen companies; and we have lately come to know that no less than three noble lords have been speculating in shares, and made great gains, but, alas! subsequently greater losses. But whither are we wandering? We must return to our muttons.

HOW SOME GENTLEMEN BEHAVE.

The House of Commons, then, is an assembly of gentlemen, and, as a rule, behave as gentlemen ought to do. But—not always. For example, is it the behaviour of gentlemen to cluster at the bar, to howl and groan down an opponent, although he is speaking sensibly and well, and to the point, and the hour is not late? Surely no one will say it is. And yet this is often done—has been done, we venture to think, oftener this Session, and with more pertinacity and more indiscriminately, than it ever was before. Men who used always to command attention have been thus rudely assailed. Gladstone has more than once been met with a storm of groans. Bright has been several times coarsely interrupted; whilst John Stuart Mill, *clarum et venerabile nomen*, only last week, when he was, early in the evening, calmly and clearly making a statement to the House touching the proceedings of the Reform League, was assailed by loud cries of "Oh, oh!" uttered in that peculiar tone which told everybody who understands this House-of-Commons language that these gentlemen meant that they did not believe what the speaker was saying. Now, is this gentlemanly conduct? And yet these things are done, reader, by those who specially arrogate to themselves the title of gentleman; for be it known that all this rude noise in the House—these planned howlings and groanings—to put speakers down, came not from the traders, but from the Conservative gentlemen—gentlemen by birth. Indeed, it is a fact well known in the House that the Liberal members are seldom guilty of these rude, boisterous, coarse, disorderly proceedings. We have known them join in a row late at night, or rather early in the morning, when the House being weary and anxious to divide, some importunate nobody has risen to continue the debate; and this is allowable. But do they ever assail Mr. Disraeli, or Lord Stanley, or any other Conservative leader, in this way? We venture to say they never do. And please to mark that this conduct is not only rude and vulgar, but it is contrary to rule particularly laid down more than 150 years ago. Here is the rule:—"To the end that all debates in this House should be grave and orderly as becomes so great an assembly, and that interruptions should be prevented, be it ordered and declared that no member of this House do presume to make any noise or disturbance whilst any member shall be orderly debating, &c.; and, in case of such noise or disturbance, that Mr. Speaker do call upon the member by name making such disturbance; and that every such person shall incur the displeasure and censure of the House." This is the law. These rude proceedings, then—unhappy so common, and becoming more so every day, making the House of Commons a mere bear-garden, or more like an arena for the rough horse-play of boisterous schoolboys, than a great national Senate—are not merely ungentlemanly, but are unparliamentary and contrary to order; and those who are guilty of this disorderly conduct are disloyal to the law. It may be asked why these disorderly proceedings are not put down. Why, indeed? Strangers—especially foreigners—are amazed that they should be tolerated. Only a few years ago riots like these, when they broke out, were put down with a high hand. Many a time have we seen Mr. Speaker Lefevre rise in his chair and heard him call out, in sonorous tones, "Members at the bar must take their places;" or "The Sergeant-at-Arms must clear the bar." And he never called in vain; for when his voice was heard the mob was dispersed at once, everyone scuttling away to his seat or into the lobby, and straightway all uproar ceased. But we have nothing of this sort done now—why, we do not know. The rule stands in the journal still, but it is never enforced; it is a mere dead letter, and matters have got to such a pitch that nobody now can get a hearing if it be not the will of the tyrants at the bar to allow it. In short, we seem to be, at times, fast verging to mob law.

INCREASE OF TRADERS IN THE HOUSE.

Until we got the Reform Act there were not many merchants, manufacturers, and traders in the House. There were a few bankers of the highest class, a colossal brewer or two, perhaps one or two ironmasters; one cotton-spinner, if no more, for Sir Robert Peel, the father of the statesman, was in the House for seven successive Parliaments; but trade and manufacture were not extensively represented until after the passing of the Reform Act. The Reform Act, though, was hardly the plain cause of the influx of traders and manufacturers into the House. The vast increase of the wealth of the trading class during the last thirty years has been a more potent cause, and the spread of railroads over the country, which enables manufacturers and traders to come to Parliament and still keep a watchful eye upon their businesses at home, has done still more to bring men of business into the House. But however that may be, here they are in great numbers, and they have been, and still are, a very useful class of legislators. Some say that this class is likely to get too large in proportion to the landowners; but we entertain no such fear, especially when we recollect that many of this class are extensive landowners themselves. Land ought to be represented, but so ought commerce; in short, so ought all our interests—land, commerce, and labour, in due proportions; and so all will be, no doubt, by-and-by.

WHAT THEY CAN DO—MR. SEELY.

And here is an example of what mercantile men can do in the House. Mr. Seely, the member for Lincoln, is a trader and a manufacturer. He has large flour mills, collieries, &c. We say he has, but perhaps we ought to say he had, for obviously Mr. Seely does not attend much to business now. The truth is, perhaps, this. Having amassed a large fortune he has, like a wise man, retired from the active management of his business to enjoy his wealth whilst he can. We should hardly call him a sleeping partner, for he is obviously wide awake; and we have no doubt that he still throws "a lang e'e"—as a Scotchman said of him the other day—over his numerous concerns, and would soon discover if anything were going wrong. Mr. Seely is exactly the sort of man of business one likes to see in the House. He is independent, which is a great matter. He wants nothing of the Government, and, therefore, can criticise it freely; and, untroubled by the cares and anxieties of his own affairs, he can bring his vast knowledge and experience to bear upon the interior working of Government departments. The department which he has specially taken in hand is the Admiralty, and particularly the manufacturing branch of this department, and more especially what may be called the economy of the department. Mr. Seely is, of course, a very unpleasant person at the Admiralty. The officials there hate him as a certain personage is said to hate holy water. And no wonder. All Government departments, or, say, the chief officials, like to live in seclusion; enveloped in a cloud, like the Olympian gods, and to carry on their operations concealed from the gaze of profane mortals; and to have a vulgar trader audaciously penetrating this cloud, and staring at and examining the mysteries behind it, is intolerable to the official mind. But Mr. Seely cares nothing for all this. He insists that there ought to be no mystery; that the cloud must be blown away; that these are no gods, but mere mortal men, and that they ought to conduct their business as other mortals do. The speech which Mr. Seely lately delivered on this subject was an exceedingly able speech, and had we time and space we should comment upon it; but we have not, and all we can say of it—and what better can be said?—is that it was unanswered, and is, we suspect, unanswerable. At all events, one fact he disclosed was not and cannot be denied—to wit, that these deities behind the cloud had paved their Olympus with cold-drawn iron ballast, worth £6 per ton in the market, at an expense to the English taxpayer of £170,000 more than the same work might have been done with granite.

MR. WATKIN.

Tuesday morning was set apart for the solemn arraignment of the Bank of England, the charge being that it has, by keeping the rate of discount too high, damaged the interests of our trading community, &c. Mr. Watkin opened the case, and we must give the matter a passing notice. But start not, reader; we are not about to lead you into the doleful region of banks, currency, circulation, &c. All we propose to do is to notice the counsel for the prosecution, not his case. Mr. Watkin is member for Stockport. He first came into Parliament in 1864. He is a great railway man—a sort of Colossus of roads, with one foot in Canada, where he has vast interests, and the other in England; and his hands, or, rather, say his head, busy the while in managing a score or two of huge commercial concerns. Now, our readers will naturally wonder how a man with so much private business on his hands can find time for his Parliamentary duties, and it is a wonder. But he does it, and does it seemingly with the greatest ease. When the House is open Mr. Watkin is generally present or "about," as we say here, and, moreover, never seems to be busy, but walks in and out of the House, or sits listening quietly to speeches, as if he had nothing in the world to do besides. But what is more surprising than even this is that he should be able to get up and deliver with so much ease and effect the remarkable speech which he favoured us with on Tuesday morning, for this speech was really one of the ablest speeches which we have ever heard in the House of Commons. The subject of it is complex, difficult, and mysterious; but with his knowledge of the subject, his simple but artistic arrangement, his clear and forcible manner, he made it as plain to us all as an Ordnance map. Here, then, is another example of what a trader can do in the House.

**THAMES CONSERVANCY.**—The Conservators of the Thames who at present, and until the Bill of this session shall pass, have the management of the river, not throughout the navigable portion of it, but only up to Staines, show in their report on the past year that they received in 1865 £22,880 for tonnage dues, £5390 for pier dues, £5676 for tolls, £10,883 for material raised by dredging and supplied to the contractors for the Thames embankment; and various other receipts brought the year's income up to more than £56,000. The expenditure is chiefly for salaries and wages, the Board having to improve the river by dredging; to keep a staff of pier-masters, collectors, river-keepers, inspectors, and clerks; to maintain piers, landing-places, towing-paths, and buoys for mooring; to remove wrecks and obstructions; and to prevent the pollution of the stream as far as they may. The Conservators have reduced to £120,800 their debt for money borrowed on the security of the tolls westward of London Bridge, and they have £58,312 in the funds or otherwise invested, besides a cash balance of £16,000.

**HOW TO READ BAD WRITING.**—A gentleman in Michigan owning a building which was situated on the lands of the Michigan Central Railway, and the company desiring him to remove it, the superintendent, who writes a most uncouth hand, sent him a short letter, authorising its removal at once. The house was not taken away, however, and three months afterwards the superintendent met the owner, and began scolding him for not doing it. The explanation was soon made. The notice had been received; no one could decipher it; so some one had suggested that it might be a free pass, and upon that suggestion the owner of the building had been riding over the road for three months, the conductors being as unable as the rest of the world to decipher the note.—*American Paper.*

**POLISH EXILES.**—During the last few days a very interesting exhibition of objects connected with the late history of the Poles and their national characteristics has been attracting a large number of visitors to Willis's Rooms. The articles which constitute the display, and which comprise jewels of great beauty and value, have been offered by Polish ladies to assist young exiles from their own country who are finishing their studies at Universities and colleges on the Continent. They are to be raffled for on the Art-Union principle, but the drawing will not take place till December next. Among the prizes are diamond bracelets, brooches, earrings, finger-rings, watches, and chains, while the stalls erected for the purposes of the exhibition are decorated with specimens of work either executed in Poland or by natives of that province in other lands. Among several things calculated to excite sympathy for the cause are some large iron crosses struck in commemoration of the massacres perpetrated by the Russians on the defenceless, unarmed people in the streets of Warsaw on the 25th and 27th of February and the 8th of April, 1861. Some silver medals are also shown made of the spoons, forks, vases, and other articles of silver plate offered by the Polish nation during the late war to be used for the national currency, but which, on the termination of the insurrection, were employed in the striking of medals in memory of gifts of lands made to the peasants by the National Government. There is a capital instrumental concert every evening during the bazaar, and, altogether, both on account of the object of the exhibition and the excellence of the articles displayed, it is to be heartily recommended to the support of the public.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 27.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord SHAFTESBURY suggested that places should be set apart for public open-air meetings.

Lord DERBY thought the suggestion a good one, and promised to consider it.

Lord Rodesdale subsequently introduced a series of alterations in the standing orders in reference to railway bills.

The alterations were opposed by Lord Stanley of Alderley, and other peers, but were eventually carried.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House had a morning sitting, which was chiefly taken up with a discussion in Committee of the Reformatory Schools Bill.

At the evening sitting Mr. Maguire gave notice of his intention to move a resolution antagonistic to the renewal of the Habeas Corpus (Ireland) Suspension Act.

On the motion for adjournment two topics were discussed—namely, the mode of voting at meetings of companies, and the prevalence of cholera on board emigrant ships. As to the latter, an interesting speech was made by The O'Conor Don, and it was announced that inquiries were being made in reference to emigrant ships. The House then proceeded to discuss the Railway (Ireland) Temporary Advances Bill.

MONDAY, JULY 30.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Several bills were advanced a stage. Nothing of public interest transpired.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH CHIEF JUSTICE OF APPEAL.

Lord NAAS stated, in reply to Mr. O'Beirne, that Mr. Napier had written to the Prime Minister, withdrawing his acceptance of the office of Lord Justice of Appeal in Ireland.

LANCASTER RIFLES.

General PEEL, in reply to an inquiry of Mr. Osborne, said that it was quite true that the short Lancaster smooth-bore rifle, supplied to the Royal Engineers, when converted to the Snider breech-loader, with the Boxer cartridge, did give much better shooting than either the Enfield or five-grooved rifles; and that orders had been given for the conversion of the Lancasters in consequence.

THE GERMANIC DIET.

Lord STANLEY stated, in reply to Mr. Oway, that on the 28th of June his predecessor at the Foreign Office sent instructions to Sir A. Malet, the British Minister at Frankfurt, to follow the Germanic Diet to any town in which it might hold its sittings. These instructions had been repeated by himself on the 1st of July; and Sir Alexander had followed the Diet to Augsburg on the 16th of July accordingly, where, on the dissolution of that body, he returned to Frankfurt. In the present state of affairs the Germanic Confederation as it existed before the war might be regarded as having practically ceased to exist.

COAST FORTIFICATIONS.

On the order of the day for going into Committee on the Fortifications (Provision for Expenses) Bill.

Mr. OSBORNE, who proclaimed himself as having always been an opponent to the fortification projects of the late Lord Palmerston, pointed out that the original scheme of the Defences Commissioners had been entirely changed, one fort out of five being struck out, and there being no foundation for another, whilst none of the floating defences had been commenced. He contended that to proceed further with the works would be to throw good money after bad.

General PEEL explained that the object of the bill was to construct new works at Tilbury and other forts for the defence of the Thames. These works were recommended by the Defences Commissioners, and would cost about £50,000; and the Government thought them of sufficient importance to justify their immediate execution.

Mr. GLADSTONE saw no reason why, with a surplus revenue, Government should propose to raise the money required by means of a loan. It was quite unusual to introduce such a proposal at the close of a Session, when the House had not time to consider it. The proper course was to have included the matter in the Estimates; and he entreated the Government not to ask the House to commit itself to the formation of these works in a time of peace by way of a loan.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER reminded Mr. Gladstone that the present Ministry were not responsible for the projected system of fortification. Moreover, the right hon. gentleman was not altogether correct in saying that it was unusual to make such an application so late in the Session, because the scheme itself was introduced by Lord Palmerston on July 23, 1860. All the bill did was to carry out a portion of the recommendation of the Defence Commission; but if the House thought the course proposed objectionable he would not press the bill.

Captain VIVIAN animadverted on the folly of erecting fortifications of stone, which experience of the American War had proved to be valueless.

Observations were also made by Mr. Kinglake, Mr. Newdegate, Sir E. Colebrooke, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Horsman, and Mr. O'Beirne; and, the motion for discharging the order having been agreed to, the bill was withdrawn.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

The Public Health Bill was further considered in Committee; and, the several clauses having been agreed to, the bill was ordered to be reported, with amendments, to the House.

TUESDAY, JULY 31.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The Earl of CARNARVON stated, in reply to Lord Lynden, that the delegates of the British North American colonies had at last settled the basis of the scheme of federation, and that their proposals had been finally sent to the Colonial Office for the sanction of the home authorities. Her Majesty's Government would do all in their power to forward the wishes of the colonists as far as was consistent with the policy and the interests of the mother country; but, in constructing a strong loyal and constitutional Power in North America, there could be nothing contrary to the policy and interests of the mother country. The matter was, however, so important that it was impossible for the Government or the Parliament to take it into consideration during the short period that now remained of the Session.

The Marquis of NORMANBY approved of the scheme of federation, but thought Ministers had exercised a wise discretion in taking time for consideration.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BANK CHARTER ACT.

Mr. WATKIN moved an address for the issue of a Royal Commission directed to the investigation of the causes which had led to the late severe and protracted pressure in the money market, and to the continuance for a long period of a minimum rate of discount of 10 per cent at the Bank of England; and also to investigate the laws at present affecting currency and banking in the United Kingdom, and to report what (if any) alterations had become expedient therein; and, further, that it be an instruction to the Commissioners to present their report and the evidence taken by them on or before Feb. 1, 1867. Having dilated at some length on the financial situation as one of a momentous character, Mr. Watkin said the present law was not approved by the most eminent authorities, and the question was whether a remedy should be sought in immediate legislation, or whether inquiry should be instituted. If the House inclined to the latter alternative, then he appealed to the Government to sanction inquiry. The existing rate of discount for three months' bills was 10 per cent, whilst the rate in France was but 3½. In no other capital in Europe than this was money so dear, and he contended that such a state of things ought no longer to continue.

Mr. AKROYD seconded the motion.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE admitted, on behalf of the Government, that inquiry was desirable, but they did not think the issue of a Royal Commission was the best course that could be adopted. There could be no doubt that, upon the whole, the principle of the Act of 1844 was a sound and true one upon which to base the currency, although it was possible that its machinery was susceptible of improvement. During the recess the matter should have careful consideration, and if it appeared that further legislation was necessary, a measure should be prepared and submitted to a Select Committee next Session. At the same time he wished it to be understood that the Government did not consider that any tampering with the Bank Charter Act could prevent the reckless speculation which had certainly contributed much to produce the recent panic. Under these circumstances he recommended the withdrawal of the motion, as its adoption would rather increase than abate the evil which it was intended to cure.

After some remarks from Mr. FAWCETT and Mr. HUBBARD, Mr. GLADSTONE said he was prepared to take any share of the responsibility which attached to him in expressing his approval of the course adopted by the Government, and observed that the speech of Sir Stafford Northcote was as satisfactory as it was clear and able. The Act of 1844 had worked very successfully. If changes were needed they should be made only upon due inquiry; and perhaps the system of country issue of bank notes might be placed upon a better footing, inasmuch as it had practically led to the limitation of the Bank reserve, to the amount probably of £1,000,000. The recent note of Lord Clarendon had been intended to remove the apprehension, alarm, and discredit which had sprung up in foreign countries in consequence of the state of commercial affairs in this country.

The debate was adjourned to Friday.

THE JAMAICA INSURRECTION.

Mr. BUXTON drew attention to the concluding paragraph in the report of the Royal Commission on the Jamaica disturbances, and moved, "That the House deplore the excessive punishments which followed the suppression of



the disturbances in October last in the parish of St. Thomas, Jamaica, and especially the unnecessary frequency with which the punishment of death was inflicted; that, while approving the course taken by the Government in dismissing Mr. Eyre from the governorship of the island, the House concurred in the view expressed by the late Colonial Secretary, that "while any very minute endeavour to punish acts which may now be the subject of regret" would not be expedient, still "that great offences ought to be punished," and that grave excesses of severity on the part of any civil, military, or naval officers ought not to be passed over with impunity; that, in the opinion of the House, it was the duty of Government to award compensation to those whose property was wantonly and cruelly destroyed, and to the families of those who were put to death illegally; and that, since considerably more than a thousand persons were proved to have been executed or severely flogged on the charge of participating in those disturbances all further punishment, on account of them ought to be remitted."—The motion was seconded by Mr. WHITE.

Mr. ADDERLEY declined to reopen the question, on the ground that they had not the means of doing it; that they could not, if they wished, reopen it; and that they must be guided by the report of the Commissioners. He appealed to the House whether it was advisable, even as a precedent, that they should pass resolutions requesting the Executive to do that which it was engaged in doing—namely, revising proceedings such as these. All the present Government had done was to carry out the measures of their predecessors and indorse their instructions. If the House thought fit to pass any general expression of regret at the excesses that had taken place, it would be impossible for him to refuse his vote for such a motion. But as that would not satisfy Mr. Buxton, the only alternative left him was to move the "previous question."

Mr. MILL declared his willingness to go to the country on the speech of Mr. Adderley, as proving most completely the necessity for further inquiry. He pointed out the atrocious actions of the soldiery, and concluded by moving an amendment.

The debate was continued by Mr. Forster, Mr. Baillie Cochrane, Mr. Russell Gurney, and others.

After some discussion as to the exact sense in which it was to be understood, the first resolution was agreed to, and the three others were withdrawn. Mr. ADDERLEY reiterating that imperative instructions had been sent over to inquire into the conduct of the subordinate officials, and that the Governor had been directed to consider, with the aid of the Judges' notes, whether any remission of the sentences could be recommended, and undertaking to take the question of compensation into consideration.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1. HOUSE OF COMMONS. CHURCH RATES.

The adjourned debate on the amendment to the second reading of the Compulsory Church-rate Abolition Bill of Mr. Gladstone was resumed. The amendment was Mr. Neate's, and was to the effect that no scheme for the total, or partial, or absolute, or qualified abolition of church rates would be satisfactory which did not contain some legal and certain provision for supplying any deficiency which may ensue from such scheme in the funds applicable to the maintenance of the fabric of the church.

Mr. HENLEY, in resuming the debate, maintained that the two provisions of the bill upon which its author relied would, if sanctioned, be found to be mischievous in their operation, and would deal a deathblow at the voluntary principle.

After some observations from Mr. A. Peel, Mr. W. Hunt, Mr. Goldney, and Mr. T. Chambers,

Lord J. MANNERS, in opposing the bill, said that even the speeches which had been delivered in its favour showed that it would not work in practice. The proposals of the bill were calculated to produce strife instead of promoting a satisfactory settlement of the question. The poor by this measure would be deprived of their only security that the services of the Church would be maintained.

Sir G. GREY said that in the large centres of population the compulsory character of the church rate had already been obliterated, and it was only in small parishes that it was preserved. The present bill, although it abolished the power to enforce payment of church rates by legal process, still provided the machinery for levying a rate, and for this reason deserved support. If it were the general wish that provision should be made for maintaining the fabric of the church a clause could be introduced with that object, and the means might be supplied by appropriating surplus funds in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The only diversity of opinion was as to how the abolition of church rates could be effected, and this difference could be settled in Committee.

Mr. SELWYN strongly opposed the bill as destructive to the nationality of the Church, and dwelt on the significance of the fact that all the compromises which had been proposed by Mr. Newdegate, Sir W. Bovill, and other friends of the Establishment on the Conservative benches, had failed to conciliate the opponents of church rates. It was idle for the friends of the measure to expect its passage through the House this Session, and he therefore recommended its abandonment.

Mr. GLADSTONE repeated his opinion that some measure of relief might be extended to the Dissenters without completely abolishing church rates, if members of the Establishment were willing to pay them. He proposed the present bill as a fair settlement of the question, believing that it would be more generally received by the country than any of the other schemes suggested.

The amendment of Mr. Neate was then negatived, and the second reading of the bill agreed to, the members of the Treasury Bench having left the House in a body before the question was put. Mr. Hardcastle then withdrew his Church Rates Abolition Bill; Mr. Newdegate took the same course with his Church Rates Commutation (No. 2) Bill, and the Solicitor-General did the same with his Church Rate Amendments Bill.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 2. HOUSE OF LORDS. JAMAICA.

In reply to the Earl of Romney,

The Earl of CARNARVON said the evidence of the Commissioners plainly showed that great injustice had been done to very many parties. With regard to cases connected with the Navy which required consideration, they had been considered. They had not been so open to censure in their deeds as those in the other branch of Her Majesty's service. The noble Earl passed an eulogium upon the personal qualities of Mr. Eyre, but also felt bound in justice to add that these qualities had not been combined with all that sound judgment which was necessary in such a position. There was no doubt that he had bent all his powers upon crushing out the rebellion, and excesses had unfortunately occurred. With respect to the proclamation of martial law, no doubt Governor Eyre had proceeded on the authority of an old statute in establishing it. The noble Earl was about drawing up a rough code of regulations for the guidance of Governors who might hereafter be placed in similar circumstances to those in which Mr. Eyre had found himself placed. To attempt to charge Mr. Eyre with the crime of murder seemed to him to be one of the most preposterous charges ever conceived; he believed Mr. Eyre had suffered very much already. He hoped to hear from Sir John Grant the most satisfactory reports of the island.

Earl RUSSELL considered the report of the Commissioners to be a very able and just one to the various parties implicated. He thought there was no ground for charging Mr. Eyre with murder.

In reply to Lord Houghton,

The Earl of CARNARVON said the question of compensation to the injured persons in Jamaica was a very difficult one; and, though he would not debar himself from all thoughts of the question, he could at present make no promise. The revenues of Jamaica were in too low a condition, however, he was afraid, to allow any compensation.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS. THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the mission of Mr. Rassam to the Emperor of Abyssinia had not at present resulted in the detention of two other gentlemen who accompanied him—Lieutenant Prideaux, of the Indian Army, and Dr. Blanc—without obtaining the final liberation of the prisoners; and whether, in dealing with the case of Mr. Flad, who had been allowed to come over under hostage to return, endeavours would be made to offer some adequate inducement to the Emperor Theodore, which should take effect only when the prisoners should be delivered into safe custody at Mapowak or elsewhere.

Lord STANLEY said it was true that Mr. Rassam and the other two gentlemen had been detained by the King of Abyssinia. They were not kept in confinement, but they were not allowed to leave the country. Mr. Flad had come to this country, leaving his wife behind; but the Government were endeavouring, by some such arrangement as that referred to, to procure the relief of the prisoners.

### THE REFORM DEMONSTRATIONS.

Mr. J. S. MILL presented a petition from the meeting held in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Monday evening. The petitioners considered that the closing of the gates at Hyde Park and the exclusion of the people were illegal, and were accompanied by gross acts of violence on the part of the police. In conclusion, they prayed the House to institute a full inquiry into the conduct of the chief commissioner and the police under his orders on the occasion referred to.

In reply to Major Knox,

Mr. MILL said he was not a member of the Reform League, to the council of which, or to Mr. Beales himself, the hon. member might apply for particulars.

### PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

This bill, as amended, was brought up for consideration, when several amendments were moved, some of which were agreed to, and others rejected.

HABEAS CORPUS SUSPENSION (IRELAND) ACT CONTINUANCE BILL.  
This bill, after an animated discussion—in which Mr. Maguire, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. B. Osborne, the Attorney-General, Mr. Watkin, Mr. Fim, Mr. Gray, Sir G. Bowyer, and others took part—was read a second time.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1866.

### MONSTER MEETINGS.

THE wisdom of Mr. Beales and his coadjutors and auxiliaries in continuing to convene monster meetings in the open air and elsewhere may well be doubted, even by the warmest friends of progress and reform. We make this remark, of course, understanding that the announcement made in the Agricultural Hall on Monday night that the same policy would be pursued "all through the winter" was an earnest and authoritative declaration of the intentions of the leading men in the National Reform League. Such gatherings can legitimately only serve two purposes—namely, to show that the people desire a change in the legislative system of the country, and that they are determined to have it. They can prove nothing else. They are mere exhibitions of force, demonstrations of the will of the people, or of a portion of the people. There is no logic in them save the logic of might. It is impossible at or through such assemblages to reason, convince, or persuade. The speaking at them must be mere declamation, not argument; and mere declamation can never of itself accomplish much good. To be effective it must be backed by something more substantial. It is necessary to convince as well as to overawe. It is more desirable to conciliate and persuade than to dragoon and frighten.

In such a country as this it is neither possible nor desirable that great political changes should be brought about by dint of much shouting. It is not enough that the right of all the people to a share in the government of the country should be assumed, and the determination to obtain it made manifest. You must prove fitness and you must prove safety as well. And this is precisely what monster meetings cannot do. But they may do something very different: they may prejudice timid-minded persons against popular rights, by giving a section of the populace an opportunity of showing that they have no respect for any rights whatever. Of course, we do not here refer to those by whom and for whom such meetings are really convened. But it is impossible on such occasions to separate the sheep from the goats; it is impossible to distinguish, in a promiscuous multitude, the intelligent, earnest, sober-minded working man, quietly yet determinedly seeking a privilege to which he thinks he has a right, and which he feels himself capable of wisely exercising, from the "roughs" and thieves intent only on a row or on robbery, and who, to gratify their propensities, will mix themselves up with all assemblies into which they can intrude, as they always can do in monster meetings, especially when these are held in the open air.

Hence we think it would be good policy on the part of the leaders of the people—using that word to signify those members of the community who really do value political privileges, who are earnest in seeking them, and whom we believe capable of safely and prudently exercising them—to change their tactics; to abandon monster gatherings, which are liable to be abused and to be misrepresented, and to organise a system of meetings on a scale that will admit of discrimination in the audience, where argument may take the place of declamation, and where reason will supersede mere noise. It was by means of such meetings, and not by heterogeneously composed monster gatherings, that free trade and all the great steps of progress we have made of late years were secured; and it is by the force of rational public opinion, formed and expressed at such meetings, that further improvement will be effected.

Let us not be misunderstood. We fully admit that there are times and occasions when monster meetings may be, and are, useful—when an expression of public feeling by means of numbers may be not only beneficial but absolutely necessary. Such a time preceded the passing of the first Reform Bill, when the mind of the whole people was thoroughly made up, and when it was necessary to make an obstructive faction understand that further resistance would not be tolerated. Such an occasion, we think, has just passed by, when it was necessary to show that the people were not indifferent to Parliamentary reform, as had been alleged. But that purpose has been served. No reasonable man can now doubt that the bulk of the unenfranchised citizens of this country do attach importance to political rights. The work remaining to be performed is to show with equal certainty that those who desire enfranchisement are fit for it; a thing that has also been disputed, and which monster meetings are in-

capable of proving. There are numerous persons in the community who are not opposed to progress, but who honestly distrust the moderation, and prudence, and wisdom of the classes still excluded from political privileges; who, in short, fear the populace in mass. These persons must be convinced that it is safe, as well as right, to make an extension of the suffrage; they must be conciliated and persuaded; their prejudices must be disarmed; their distrust must be dissipated. These things cannot be accomplished by monster meetings, declamation, and noise; but they may, and can, be attained by means of limited assemblies, where full, free, and fair discussion is possible and is permitted; where mind can be brought to bear upon mind, and where the people and their leaders can have an opportunity of showing reasons for the faith that is in them. To the holding of such meetings and the conducting of such discussions we recommend the leaders of the National Reform League to devote their energies between this and next Session of Parliament. They will find plenty of work to do in making friends, disarming opponents, and forming public opinion, which we cannot help thinking is still in a somewhat crude state as regards reform in Parliament. Let them be assured that wholesome conviction and public confidence will be found infinitely more effective, when the time to push popular rights comes, than any amount of mere dumb show and noise.

### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY will return to Windsor Castle on the 20th instant, and proceed to Scotland next day.

FRANCIS II., ex-King of Naples, it is said, is coming to reside in England for some time.

THE KING OF HANOVER has been informed by the Prussian Government that the income which his Majesty derives from the crown lands will be withheld until the public moneys remitted by his orders to England be refunded.

THE MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER has presented a second donation of £1000 to the British Home for Incurables, Clapham-rise.

COMMANDER COLOMB, R.N., is engaged, by direction of the Admiralty, in revising the present naval signal code.

CHARLOTTE FLORENTIA, Dowager Duchess of Northumberland, died, on Friday week, at her residence at Twickenham. She was the second daughter of Edward, first Earl of Powis, and was born in 1787. She married Hugh, third Duke of Northumberland, in 1817.

MR. BOVILL, the new Solicitor-General, has received the honour of knighthood.

THE REV. J. O'BRIEN, Vicar of Lynham, near Chippenham, has resigned his living and joined the Church of Rome.

THE PRUSSIAN CHAMBERS are convened for the 5th of August.

A RUSSIAN NAMED NARISKINE has for the third time this season broken the bank at the gaming-tables at Baden.

MR. ARTHUR SKETCHLEY intends taking "Mrs. Brown" to America.

MR. BRAND, the Liberal whipper-in, is suffering from severe illness (erysipelas), and is about to leave for Aix-la-Chapelle.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY have decided to recommend to the proprietors a dividend on the ordinary stock for the half year ending June 13 at the rate of 4½ per cent per annum.

THE CONTEMPLATED LIGNE D'ITALIE RAILWAY, over the Simplon, has been abandoned. All the works, &c., have been advertised for sale.

MR. CHARLES HEMANS, son of the poetess, who some years ago was converted to Romanism, is announced as received back into the English Church.

MR. BRIGHT, it is rumoured, is about to visit Ireland during the autumn, and will be invited to a public banquet by the leading Liberals of the country.

THE CONDITIONS UPON WHICH KING THEODORE, of Abyssinia, has consented to release his unfortunate European captives are that England shall send him out four skilful workmen in their stead, and pay their wages out of the British exchequer!

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT is losing no time in making preparations for convoking the German Parliament. The Governor of Schleswig-Holstein has received orders to arrange for the election of deputies from those provinces.

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ says that the strip of "highlands which divide the waters flowing into the St. Lawrence from those flowing into the Atlantic," is the oldest land in the world. It was once a lonely sea-beach, washed by a universal ocean.

ONE OF THE NAVAL SIGNALS now is "Prepare to ram," when foretopmasts are sent down, bowsprits run in, and the ships of the fleet made ready for "a butt all round."

THE SHIPBUILDERS OF THE WEAR have given their men notice of a reduction of wages, owing to the depressed condition of the trade.

A GRANT OF MONEY has been made by the Treasury to the Department of Health for the purpose of conducting a special series of experiments and researches in connection with the present outbreak of cholera. Mr. Simon will conduct the inquiry.

AN INTREPID SWIMMER has crossed the Lake of Geneva between Belotte and Bellevue. The feat occupied about two hours and a half. During all this time the swimmer took no rest, not even by floating on his back.

THE FIRST SOD OF THE LANCASHIRE UNION RAILWAYS—a scheme intended to open up more fully the mineral districts of South Lancashire—was cut on Tuesday in the township of Haigh, near Wigan, by Mr. Richard Moon, the chairman of the directors of the London and North-Western Railway Company.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF DRESDEN refused the director of the theatre permission to close his establishment. On this the director raised the price of admission to six thalers—eighteen shillings; whereupon the municipality gave way.

THE CONTENTS PLACARD of the *Standard*, on Tuesday morning, contained the following as the most prominent line:—"Great Donkey Show at the Agricultural Hall,"—said "donkey show" meaning the Reform demonstration.

DR. DONALDSON, one of the classical masters of Edinburgh High School, has been elected to the office of Rector of that institution, in room of Dr. Schmitz.

MR. HEPPORTH DIXON sailed on Saturday last from Liverpool, on board the Java, bound for New York, en route for Utah and the Salt Lake. Queen Emma, of the Sandwich Islands, was also among the Java's passengers.

THE PRUSSIANS, during their advance on Vienna, found in one place immense magazines of Austrian stores, including £50,000 worth of cigars intended for issue to the Austrian troops.

A DEGREE OF KING VICTOR EMANUEL orders the removal to the Academy of Fine Arts of the pictures in the Church of the Capuchins at Lanzo, and of the statues from the Monastery of Dominicans at Genoa. A previous decree declared the books of the Mineurs Observants of Bonerva the property of the Library of the University of Sassari.

THE IRONCLAD BELLEPHON has been fully manned and commissioned since the 22nd of March last, and yet has not one of the gun-carriages or slides which are to form her complement on board. The Woolwich Arsenal is incapable of supplying the demand, and, consequently, orders are to be sent out.

A REQUISITION is in course of signature to the Mayor of Bradford, requesting him to convene a public meeting of the inhabitants of that town, to adopt an address to the President of the United States congratulatory of the completion of the Atlantic cable.

M. CHARLES DE ROTHSCHILD is reported to have told General de Manteuffel that he would not contribute to the Prussian demand on Frankfurt for 25,000,000 florins. They might pillage his cellars if they liked, but if they did so he would cause all the papers of the Prussian bankers he held to be protested, and compel them to suspend payment.

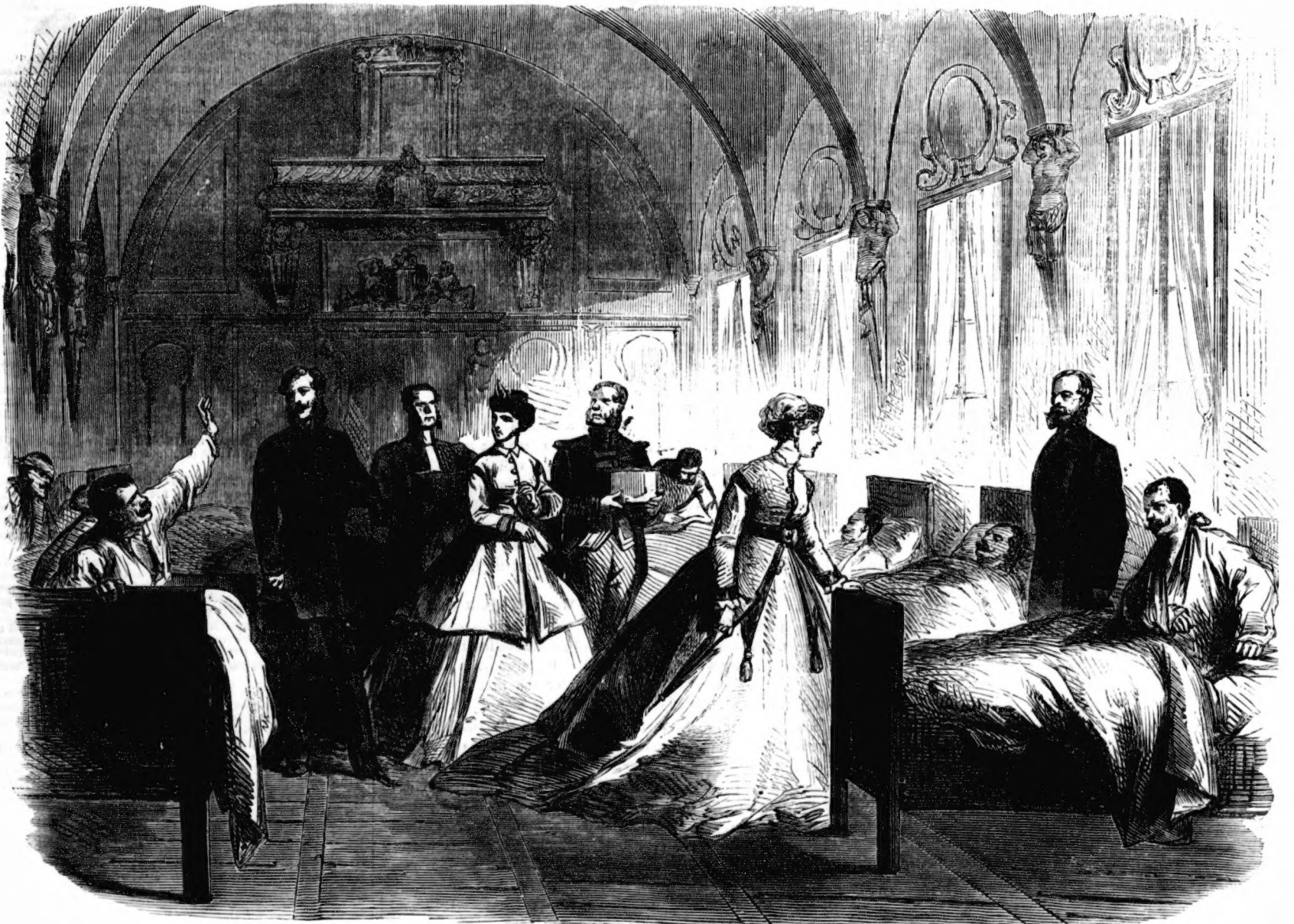
GREAT DARING was on Saturday last displayed at Saltash by a youth thirteen years of age, the son of Captain Frost. A lad named Revel got out of his depth while bathing, and would very soon have been lost had not young Frost swam out to him, secured him, and brought him on shore. The rescued and the rescuer were both in a very exhausted condition.

AN IMPERIAL DECREE in the *Moniteur* confers a gold medal of honour upon Mme. Cornuau, wife of the Prefect of the Somme, for her courage and devotedness during the cholera at Amiens. The medal bears the following inscription:—"L'Impératrice Eugénie à Mme. Cornuau. Epidémie cholérique d'Amiens, 1866."



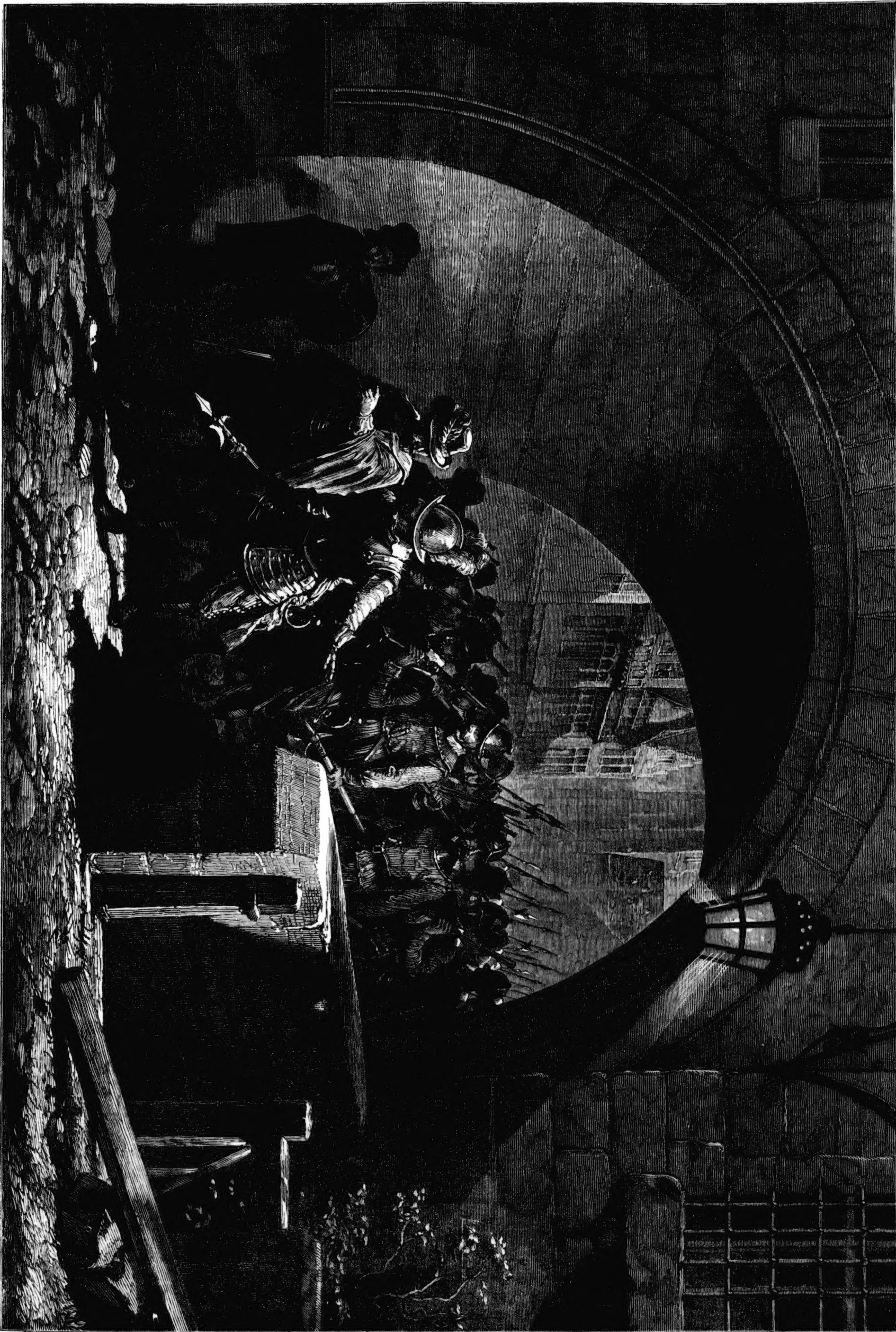


THE GREAT REFORM MEETING IN THE AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.



THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA VISITING WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN THE CHATEAU OF GELLENCE, HUNGARY.





"THE SORTIE"—(FROM THE PICTURE BY LOUIS HACHE, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.)



## REFORM DEMONSTRATIONS.

GREAT MEETING IN THE AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.

On Monday night probably the most numerous and imposing demonstration of popular feeling that was ever exhibited under a single roof took place in the Agricultural Hall. Eight o'clock was the hour appointed for the commencement of the proceedings, but long before that time some thousands of persons had assembled in the body of the hall, whilst still greater numbers were congregated outside. As the hour of eight approached, the spaces left vacant in the hall began to fill rapidly from the ample reservoirs of population who preferred to remain outside and wait in the open air to see the various processions with their bands of music coming up rather than to secure a good position inside by an early entry. The platform for the speakers was erected on the north side of the building. To the left of it, on each side of the great organ, the gallery was occupied by a dense mass of persons, amongst whom were several ladies; and thence all round the hall, facing the platform, on the western extremity of the building and behind the speakers, the other portions of the gallery were filled by persons who were anxious to secure what they considered favourable positions. Even some few daring spirits were bold enough to find amongst the iron supports of the roof what they deemed good acoustic situations, over and high above the spot from which the speakers were to address the meeting. Some twenty minutes before the proceedings commenced, the head of the procession, which came on with banners flying and bands playing, was seen through the open doors in the Liverpool-road; and when the leading flag showed itself within the portals loud hurrahs and enthusiastic cheers were raised. At this time the people within the hall were, to the eye of the spectator, sufficiently dense, and it was at one time a question of doubt whether the resources of the hall, vast as they were, would have been able to accommodate the accession which now poured in from the doors on the western side. But, like the affluents of some spacious lake, the successive streams of human beings moved forwards through the mass inside, till at length they blended and became one solid, compact, and homogeneous substance. At this moment the prospect from the platform was truly wonderful. Tens of thousands of stalwart men, evidently belonging to the working class, packed in front of the platform, the galleries all round the building so filled as to leave no spaces vacant, the bands playing popular and patriotic music, and the banners arranged in the distance, presented a spectacle such as could scarcely be equalled in any other part of the world. The open doors on the Liverpool-road side added to the demonstration; for through them could be seen the thousands who were unable to find admission inside. As a demonstration of political sentiment nothing could surpass the meeting of Monday night. It was vast in its proportion, orderly in its conduct, unanimous in its sentiment, and resolute in its determination. It would be inaccurate to say that the meeting was or could be deliberative. The voice of the most powerful speaker could not be heard beyond a very limited distance, and the resolutions agreed to were probably not heard by one in a hundred of those present. But no one who was present can deny the fact that the something like 25,000 persons who were congregated in the Agricultural Hall that night were resolute and determined, and actuated by a common sentiment in favour of that reform about which they are said to be careless, and for which they are said to be unfit. The banners were inscribed with various mottoes, such as "Manhood Suffrage and the Ballot," "Gladstone and Reform," "The Clerkenwell Branch of the Reform League," with a very well executed bust of Mr. Bright.

The appearance of Mr. Beales, the chairman, accompanied by Mr. Mill, M.P.; Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P.; and other members of the Reform League, was the signal for enthusiastic and long-continued cheers.

When silence had in some degree been obtained, Mr. Beales said:—

This noble hall, capacious as it is, is not quite so airy and spacious as Hyde Park. But it is sufficient to show that you care something about the franchise, and it does more—it has an advantage of the park, inasmuch as it enables us to have the assistance of lady reformers, who can do such good service in the cause. You know what slanders and misrepresentations poured upon us during the past week—a week, I will say, of much honour and of much triumph to the people. The Reform League was formed especially in the interest of working men, and with a view to answer the calumnies which had been uttered against them. The working men were said to be at once unfit for and careless of reform. This meeting is a pretty good refutation of these slanders. We first held meetings in St. Martin's Hall, and our friends in Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Huddersfield, and elsewhere met in their places of meeting. Still it was said you did not care for reform. We had still larger gatherings (outdoor ones) on Primrose-hill, not with the sanction of the Government. They now insidiously insinuate that they permitted these meetings; but I repudiate such sanction. Our next place of meeting was in Trafalgar-square. You know that tens of thousands of people met there. But the cry still was, the people do not care for reform; so we determined to have a great metropolitan and provincial demonstration in Hyde Park; and, on the pretence that we would interrupt the pleasure of a few loungers, the police were ordered to prevent us from going inside the gates. Well, what happened? The railings fell. I think we were illegally excluded on that occasion. But we adjourned to Trafalgar-square, and held our meeting there. Now we are assembled in this hall, and I defy any man who witnesses the scene before me to say that you are indifferent about reform. Now, there are so many of your friends here who desire to address you, that I will be content with calling on the gentleman who is to move the first resolution.

Mr. Woolterton then proposed the following resolution:—

That the present Government, by assisting to defeat the bill introduced by the late Government for the amendment of the representation, and by themselves indefinitely postponing the whole question of reform, and finally by their employing the police to forcibly prevent the working classes from peaceably meeting in Hyde Park, on Monday last, to complain of the suffrage being withheld from them, have forfeited all claim to the confidence and support of the country.

Mr. Mason Jones seconded the resolution.

Mr. J. S. Mill, M.P., who supported the resolution, on rising was received with loud cheers from all who could hear the announcement of his name. The hon. member, who seemed deeply impressed by the spectacle of the teeming and swaying multitude before him, said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—This building is a sufficient guarantee that the cause of reform will suffer nothing by your having determined to hold your meeting here instead of repeating the attempt to hold it in the park. But I do not want to talk to you about reform, you do not need to be stimulated by me on that subject. This meeting is a sufficient reply to any one who supposes that you do not want to discuss reform. You have been very much attacked for holding such large meetings, on the ground that they are inconsistent with discussion. But discussion is not the only use of public meetings. One of the objects of such gatherings is demonstration. You want to make a display of your strength, and I tell you that the countries where the people are allowed to show their strength are those in which they are not obliged to use it. As regards the parks, your chairman, who is a lawyer, does not doubt your right to meet in them. I am not a lawyer, and know nothing about the matter. But you thought it right to assert your claim, and only to withdraw under protest. Your protest has been made, and you have—I think wisely—determined not to renew it. You have been promised a fair opportunity of having the question settled by judicial decision, and you have wisely resolved that until that decision is given the question shall remain where it is. The Government, without abandoning what they thought were their legal rights, might have permitted the park for one meeting when permission was asked, and I think it would have been a wise policy and a gracious act to have granted it—(tremendous cheers)—but it was refused.

At this point the crowd in front of the platform became, from the inevitable effect of pressure, so tumultuous and noisy that it was impossible for the hon. gentleman to proceed so as to make himself audible even to those who were nearest to him, and accordingly he made no attempt to complete his remarks.

The chairman then put the resolution, and it was carried with great enthusiasm.

Mr. Bradlaugh proposed the next resolution—viz.—

That a petition, signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, be presented to the House of Commons praying for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the conduct of Sir Richard Mayne and the police under his orders in forcibly preventing the working classes from meeting in Hyde Park, on Monday, the 23rd of July inst., and likewise their conduct in ejecting persons from the park, and otherwise mistreating them on that and the two following days.

Mr. Henry Vincent, in seconding the resolution, said:—

There never was a time when it was more important that the people should publicly express their opinion. Whatever the *Times* or the *Standard* might say, the people of this country were determined to have reform. The working classes were not, as they had been termed, drunkards or anarchists. They were loyal to the law and loyal to the Crown, but at the same time loyal to that liberty in which they claimed to participate. They were indignant against those who had dared to turn on them an armed police, and to insult them by quartering troops in various parts of the metropolis. That demonstration was a proof that there was wanted neither police nor military to keep order. Loyalty to the Crown, however, did not mean loyalty to the Earl of Derby. In conclusion, the speaker declared that, having lately visited different parts of England, he had found everywhere a strong determination to put down the Tories and bring the Liberal Government back to power, and recommended those who were assembled to show themselves peaceable, orderly, and magnanimous.

Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., in supporting the resolution, said:—

Prudent men of business were in the habit of taking stock of their profits. Let them, then, take stock as regarded the business of the last fortnight. In that short period they had taught the Tories that the people really cared for reform, and were earnestly bent on maintaining the right of public meeting. The people saw that, unless they had the power of meeting, they had no chance of obtaining reform, and their opponents had learnt that the people would not give up the right of meeting in the people's parks. When the people assembled round Hyde Park they had no intention of violence; but all must remember the story in which it was related that when some people of old assembled round Jericho, the walls fell down. The Tories were the same now as they were fifty years ago, and as they were last year in Jamaica.

The resolution was then put and carried.

Colonel Dickson moved the following resolution:—

That it is the imperative duty of this meeting, and of the entire population of this country who value their rights and liberties, to raise funds in support of the Reform League in their great battle for their unfranchised fellow-countrymen, and for the relief of those so brutally beaten by the police in Hyde Park.

Mr. Bonner seconded the resolution, which was then put and carried.

On the motion of Mr. G. Brooks, seconded by Mr. J. R. Taylor, a vote of thanks was given to the chairman.

The chairman, in acknowledging the vote, observed that not all the police and all the military could have restored order and peace; the credit of that belonged to the people themselves; and he trusted that those who were assembled would disperse quietly and go home peaceably.

The meeting then commenced dispersing, and though this was, of course, a work of considerable difficulty and duration, the building was cleared in an orderly and creditable manner. The processions, having been re-formed, started on their route to their respective destinations, the bands playing at the head as they had done on the arrival.

It may be mentioned, as an indication of the practical and earnest spirit of the meeting, that upwards of £38 towards the expenses was collected in the two side galleries. The charge made for the use of the building was fifty guineas.

While the proceedings were going on inside the hall, the crowd outside had augmented to a large extent, and the two main thoroughfares leading to the hall—namely, Liverpool-road and Upper-street, Islington—became completely blocked up from the Angel Inn to the hall, while the windows of the houses were filled with people. At the close of the meeting, which took place at the comparatively early hour of half-past nine, it was with the utmost difficulty the persons leaving the hall could force their way into the street. The bands, however, belonging to the Holborn and Clerkenwell branches of the League, who had been marshalled in one of the side streets, came to the rescue, and, having formed in order opposite the Liverpool-road entrance, began playing and drew the people away from the entrance-doors. The members of the above branches, having received the word to fall in twelve deep, after some difficulty complied with the order, and, with the bands and flags, marched in good order down the Liverpool-road towards the Angel, being preceded and followed by an immense body of people. This in some measure cleared the ground, and the members of the other branches were enabled to fall in and march off with comparative ease. It was eleven o'clock, however, before the neighbourhood got cleared of the crowd of people. The Holborn, Clerkenwell, and South London branches proceeded to Clerkenwell-green, where a large open-air meeting was held, Mr. Osborne presiding; and several congratulatory speeches were made on the good order that had characterised the proceedings of the evening. The meeting separated at half-past ten o'clock, with three cheers for the League and Reform, and three groans for the Government and the police. On the whole line of route, both going and returning, the processions were loudly cheered, not only by the people in the streets, but by the occupants of the windows of the houses and shops.

## MEETING IN VICTORIA PARK.

At Victoria Park a great meeting was held, presided over by Mr. Davis. There was no police interference with the people, and everything was quiet and orderly. Resolutions in favour of reform and condemnatory of the present Government were passed. When the meeting was over a large proportion of those present marched to the Agricultural Hall, where they arrived just in time to find the doors closing.

## WORKING MEN'S MEETING IN LINCOLN'S-INN-FIELDS.

On Tuesday a meeting, promoted by the Working Men's Association of London, was held in Lincoln's-inn-fields. Although the weather was anything but propitious for an open-air demonstration, the number of persons who assembled was very considerable. There were probably some 8000 men collected before and around the platform, which consisted of costermongers' carts fixed to the railings on the south side of Lincoln's-inn-fields, and nearly opposite the College of Surgeons. A large number of boys and youths gathered around the skirts of the meeting and amused themselves after the wonted manner of London boys by shouting, cheering, "larking," and so on. Like most of the gatherings which preceded it, the assembly of Tuesday night was intended more as a demonstration than as a meeting for discussion. No provision was made for reporting the speeches, the gentlemen who attended for that purpose having to mount over the railings, and to stand on the grass plot inside during the proceedings. There was the usual accompaniment of a band and banners. The roadway in front of the platform was blocked up, but the reports generally state that there was no disorder or disturbance beyond that which always attends any great collection of men. The *Times*, however, says, what we understand is true, that a gentleman in the crowd seemed at one period to be inclined to ridicule the sentiments which came from the platform, but he was speedily bonneted. He would, no doubt, have been subjected to further ill-usage, but, having a good stout stick in his hand, he struck out on all sides with determination and energy, which soon secured him a clear field. Mr. George Potter presided; and the principal speakers, besides the chairman, were Mr. Baxter Langley, Mr. Mason Jones, Mr. Upshall (joiner), Mr. Davis (painter), Mr. Walton (architect, Newport), Mr. Bligh (shoemaker), and Mr. Mitchel (joiner). The following resolutions were adopted:—

1. That this meeting approve the principles adopted by the London Working Men's Association—viz., residential and registered manhood suffrage, equal representation, and the ballot; and will support the efforts of the association to procure the political enfranchisement and promote the social elevation of the industrial classes.

2. That this meeting, regretting that the present Government have not proposed to introduce now, or at any future time, a measure of reform, pledge themselves to oppose the continuance of any Government in office that will not introduce and honestly endeavour to carry through a reform bill, comprising a large extension of the franchise and a comparative equality of representation.

3. That this meeting is of opinion the present Government, by its conduct towards the people last Monday week at Hyde Park, and their employment of the police and military to prevent the peaceable meeting of the people, have forfeited all claims to the confidence or support of the people, and hereby calls upon her Majesty to dismiss them from office.

The chairman, in conclusion, recommended the meeting to disperse quietly, which they began to do, after giving hearty cheers for reform.

## THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA VISITING WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN HOSPITAL.

It is said that the Austrian crown jewels and the State treasure-chests, as well as the coffers of many of the chief banking establishments, and the valuables of the city of Vienna, have been sent for safety to Comorn, to be protected by the impregnable fortification constructed by General Klapka during the revolutionary period of 1849; and the Imperial residence is, for the present, transferred to Buda, where the Empress of Austria has taken up her abode with her two children, Prince Rudolph and Princess Gisella. Her Majesty has been received with profound respect and sympathy by the people, who seem to have striven to show that she may rely at such a crisis upon their loyalty and fidelity. Since her stay in this place her Majesty has occupied herself in that charitable work which so necessarily engages the attention of many of the Austrian ladies, and has interested herself in providing for the comfort of the wounded soldiers at present in hospital in the Château of Goellence. This château, which is situated about four leagues from Pesth, was formerly the summer residence of Maria Theresa, and afterwards became the property of the Sina family. The Belgian bank, to which it now belongs, has freely given it up for the purposes of a hospital. It is a princely dwelling, in the true acceptance of the term, and its large and lofty apartments are well adapted for the benevolent purpose to which they have been devoted. The poor fellows who are sent here, in spacious and airy rooms, admirably provided and situated in a delightful spot, may be almost envied by their less fortunate brethren in Vienna, especially as they are the peculiar protégés of the Empress.

## "THE SORTIE."

MR. LOUIS HAGHE has selected for his picture in the Exhibition of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours this year an incident which must have been of pretty common occurrence in Flanders and the Netherlands during the Middle Ages. A party of men-at-arms are sallying forth by moonlight either to attack the unsuspecting burghers of some neighbouring town, or to cross swords with some beleaguering force encamped before their own city.

The silver moonlight and the red glare of lamps and torches struggle for the mastery, and touch with pallid or ruddy beams the morions, cuirasses, and pikes of the gallant little band.

Mr. Haghe has achieved admirable effects in this large and bold work. Both moonlight and lamplight are rendered without trickiness, and the sombre gloom of the gateway contrasts well with the eagerness and vigorous action of the figures emerging from its shadows.

## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

BEFORE a chief Secretary of State or other high political functionary can, on retirement from office, get his name placed upon the pension list he has to sign a declaration of poverty—not that he is absolutely poor, but that he has not sufficient estate to maintain the dignity, whatever that may be, which a person in his high position ought to maintain. No examination is made. His *ipse dixit* is enough. This, as the world goes, is rather a humbling declaration, meaning many things—amongst others, that he, the subscriber, was tempted to take office for the sake of the emoluments. One would think that the pride of such men would revolt at such a declaration. Andrew Marvel would certainly never have signed such a document; for he, when tempted by the Court, showed the Court emissary a cold shoulder of mutton and asked him whether anyone who could dine three days following on such fare was likely to succumb to any temptation that Royalty could offer. Patriots like Andrew Marvel, however, are now, and perhaps always were, rare. At all events, there is no difficulty now in finding men who, though they do not live on cold mutton three days together, are quite ready to declare that they are poor and to take a pension. Lord Glenelg had a pension of £2000 a year for many years. Sir George Grey, when out of office, always falls back upon his pension of the same amount, and Disraeli does the same; and now, to the astonishment of everybody, Mr. Miller Gibson, who was thought to be passing rich with six or seven thousand a year, has pleaded poverty, and gets his pension of £2000 a year. Sir George, all know, is not rich—that is, he is comparatively not rich. Disraeli, it is understood, is comparatively poor; but knowing that there are certain squares and streets in London named after the late President of the Board of Trade—for example, Milner-square and Gibson-square, it came to be believed that he was the possessor of these squares and their surroundings, and must be rich. Probably, though, we were all wrong. Indeed, we must have been wrong, for has not the late President of the Board of Trade signed, sealed, and delivered a declaration that he is poor? And, now I am gossiping about these pensions, let me ask how it is that Mr. Villiers has no pension. He certainly deserves one; and nobody believes that he is too rich to make the declaration. Earl Russell has never received a pension, albeit it is suspected that before his brother died, leaving him that Irish estate, his Lordship was not rich, and even now is not over rich for a Lord. I suspect, though, from what I know of Earl Russell, he must be pushed very hard, perhaps even to dining three days off a shoulder of mutton, before he would take a pension from the State. He once told a Parliamentary Committee appointed to examine into the matter of the salaries of our high Government officials, that he only once in his life outlived his income, and that was when he was in receipt of a salary of £5000 a year as a Chief Secretary of State.

Good Mr. Walpole—"weak, worthy, weeping Walpole"—blundered into a difficulty; and has, by reason of his weakness, and worthiness, and weeping, got out of it. I say that he blundered into the difficulty. I suspect, though, that he was led into it by Sir Richard Mayne, the would-be prefect of the metropolis. Mr. Walpole, though, must have been weak to have listened to the suggestions of this gentleman. Had the Secretary of State not been weak, he would have seen that the Chief Commissioner could not hold the park with its exposed frontier of four miles, and would have refused his sanction to the attempt. However, he gave his consent, and got himself into a most perplexing difficulty; such a difficulty that at one time many thought there was only one way out of it, and that was resignation of his office. This was freely talked of, and if the Reform League had determined to meet in the park again, and again the crowd had come into collision with the police, there would have been probably no alternative for Mr. Walpole but resignation. But the "weakness," as it is called, of the Home Secretary saved him from this fate. He met the League; he talked to them kindly; even wept before them; and the result was that the League, charmed by his kindness and humanity, and touched by his sorrow, were softened, and consented not to attempt to meet again. A "stronger" man would have threatened and defied the League. In return, the exasperated League would have defied him; another collision, much more disastrous than the first, would have occurred; and, in such case, the Home Secretary must have resigned, and probably the Tory Government with him. And so we see how a kind Providence has us even for our "weaknesses." But, question—was this kindness really a weakness? After pondering a good deal, I have come to think that it was not. His weakness was shown in allowing Sir Richard to override his own kindness. He should have said, and would have said, if he had obeyed the dictates of his own heart, "No, I cannot hazard a collision with the people, and probable bloodshed, by shutting the park-gates and resisting an entrance by force." But he succumbed to the influence of the would-be prefect, who is really a weak man—weak in judgment, though hard in feeling; and herein the Home Secretary showed weakness. In attempting to conciliate the people he showed strength. I think, rather than weakness. He had come to see how futile all attempts to prevent another meeting by force would be, and he asserted his opinion in opposition to Sir Richard, who would but for Mr. Walpole's "weakness," as it has been called, have resisted to the death.



### THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

#### THE MAGAZINES.

Nothing was easier than to foresee, at the time of Mr. Mill's election for Westminster, the "muddle and muddle" which would shortly gather around his name; nor has the reality fallen short of the expectation. He does not now urge the Ballot (though I do not feel sure that he would vote against it), for what seems a good reason—namely, that political conditions have, in some respects, improved so fast that its shelter is no longer a necessity. But what avails a good reason? He has been accused of "tergiversation" about the Ballot! This, however, is nothing. Tories and men of the world on all sides, full of battled rage, and spite, and jealousy, at the manner in which the great man was elected for the great constituency for which he was the natural and proper member, have taken every opportunity they could find, in and out of the House, of pelting him with the rottenest eggs of criticism. Mr. Lowe condescended, after his very first speech, to the coxcomb's joke that Mr. Mill was a great deal too clever for that House. The Tories quoted scraps of his own books against him, with their usual stupidity; and, in a speech of five minutes, Mr. Mill gave them as good as they brought. But the worst was to come. When it was made apparent that Mr. Mill really meant what he had been writing all his life—that he would honestly and unreservedly stand by popular rights as against privilege, and would not hesitate, if it were necessary, to speak up even for "the dregs of society," the rage of the classes who think the franchise is a "privilege" to be conceded by the already privileged classes at their pleasure knew no bounds. At the time of the election, the *odium theologium* was kept under hatches pretty successfully. Educated men appeared ready to combine in snubbing any attempt to discredit Mr. Mill by insinuations about his real or supposed creed. But it was not difficult to foresee that the moment there seemed a prospect of Mr. Mill becoming a political power on the popular side, all the dogs of war, all the hyenas of war, and all the skunks of war, too, would be freely let loose against him.

The word has been given, and I am more sorry than surprised to see that *Blackwood*, faithful to its traditions, comes to the front in this infamous warfare. I turned with interest to the heading in the August number, "Stuart Mill Again; or, the Examiner Examined," expecting to see a further scrutiny of his book on Hamilton, but I found, in fact, a song, which contains one downright, impudent untruth, and much false insinuation. The untruth is in the verse which I quote:—

Yet without any God a Religion may be,  
Which in priesthood and power with its rivals may cope;  
Which in Dead Men and Women may Deities see,  
And have Comte for its Prophet and Mill for its Pope.

How came those discreditable couplets into *Blackwood* in our own day, when the chances of exposure to be encountered by untruthfulness are so numerous? It so happens that Mr. Mill has with emphasis, and something like contempt, repudiated, in the face of all men, the very speculations of Comte with which his name is here connected as "Pope." He has done it in scattered passages of his writings, and he has done it in the book specially addressed to Comte's philosophy. The misstatement here is as gross as if Dr. Cumming were charged with advocating polygamy. To the rest of the song there is only this to say. It is very clear, and very clever, and, as indicating the inevitable consequences of Mr. Mill's philosophy, I believe, quite correct. With that philosophy I as strenuously disagree as the writer of this song does. But what then? He must know, as well as I do, two or three things which I will here put down:—1. It is possible to hold the philosophy without accepting the consequences. 2. The great majority of men, including clerics, do hold, without knowing it, a similar philosophy, tacking on their religious faith as best they can. 3. Though it is quite fair to exhibit the logical consequences of a man's belief in philosophical discussion, it is quite unfair to exhibit them in a crude way, to the average reader, for the purpose of discrediting the man in his public capacity.

This would be true, even if Mr. Mill were a different man from what he is. But the fact is that we none of us know the exact shape the "consequences" take in Mr. Mill's mind. I do not hesitate to avow my own belief that *effectively* Mr. Mill is a Theist; and that, as to Christianity, he might, without any violence to the truth, be ranked with hundreds of people who are called Unitarians. I say, *effectively* this is true; for the subtleties of philosophical formulae are quite another matter. Nor is this all. Suppose Mr. Mill's philosophy an esoteric thing; suppose one only knew the quasi-homiletic parts of his book; the glow that warms them all; the chivalry with which he always takes the weaker side; the "enthusiasm of humanity" which pervades all he says and writes; the fearlessness with which he speaks his thoughts—suppose one knew only these, what would be the criticism one had to make? This; a criticism which I have myself made a thousand times as I have laid down his books with a warmed and lifted mind:—"This man may say what he likes about the Conditioned and the Unconditioned, and plead Utility till all's blue; but, for all that, we of the other camp claim him for ours, and will fight his battles for him. He may say, 'Non tali auxilio'—well, we don't care even for that. The *logique* of his life and the logic of his books won't hang together. If his scheme of things is true, his life is an absurdity. Whoever seeks to discredit him for practical purposes by exhibiting the logical consequences of his philosophy, is doing a shameful and cruel thing; while formally fighting for the fold, and getting the honours of such a fight, he is really and truly fighting the battle of the wolves and doing all he can to scatter and jeopardise the sheep." In other respects the present number of *Blackwood* is a good one; and I need not repeat that I always read it with interest and admiration.

In the *Cornhill* the new story, "The Village on the Cliff," contains some curiously charming descriptive writing. The woodcuts to the present number are decidedly successful. In Mr. Trollope's story the young lover breaks down in his allegiance, and is caught hugging Lady Ongar by Sophie Gordeloup. The other articles are not remarkable; and two, one on "Sleep" and one on "Criminal Women," are quite poor.

In *Macmillan* are told that Mrs. Norton's story of "Old Sir Douglas" will be resumed, which is a thing pleasant to hear. "Cradock Nowell" ends—and one can only hope that, if Mr. Blackmore reprints it, he will knock out nine-tenths, at least, of the hard words it contains before doing so. He is a fine-spirited writer, of large information, peculiar intelligence, healthy sympathies, and pure and lofty intent; and it is a great pity he has, by his lavish use of "dictionary" words, laid himself open to so much banter from his casual critics. Mr. John Morley writes a felicitous and discriminating essay on the characteristics of George Eliot's novels, and the other articles are agreeable reading.

In the *Argosy* Mr. Charles Reade has advanced "Griffith Gaunt" a step or two towards the too horrible; it is painful reading, and a little hurried. The sketch of Etretrat in bathing-time is one of the most charming papers ever printed. The illustrations are excellent—four of them in this number!

In the *Churchman's Family Magazine* there is, as usual, some very good matter. I can't make out the Book Club, unless it is done by different hands on different occasions. I like the present instalment very much indeed, but two or three months back (I forget the exact date) I quite failed to recognise the pen which has so often pleased me in these papers.

*Temple Bar* gives us this month one more of those delightful tourist papers which have so often been spoken warmly of in this column. "Through Surrey" is the title of the present contribution, and it is most agreeable reading. The stories, of course, proceed, and of "Archie Lovell" I have already said a favourable word.

*London Society* is, as usual, bright with illustrations, and filled with "light" reading. The *Victoria* always surprises me by the number of its advertisements. I have no idea what the circulation of this magazine is, but its advertisements seem to me more in number than those of any other magazine whatever. "Colonel Kannooh" is very naturally

written; and the paper on "Conflicting Opinions about the Franchise for Women" is wise, temperate, and, I suppose, written by a man.

*Aunt Judy's Magazine* for children, of which I have seen one or two numbers, is very good. Mrs. Gatty's name on the titlepage is a pretty sure guarantee that it *must* be good; but one is glad to be able to say, as a matter of fact, that it is. I do not myself think any children's books, except one or two, are written with the desirable (and attainable) impartiality from the child's point of view. But, admitting even the best of the received theories of the way in which children's books should be written, then Mrs. Gatty is best among the best.

A year or two—or three—ago Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. published a book entitled "The Adventures (?) of Alfie, or the Magic Amulet." This, as I said at the time, was one of the very, very best stories for the young I ever read. What has become of it? Nobody ever heard of a second edition, I believe; yet it was a prince of a book. There is a little story published by Lumley, called "Bob and his Dog Quiz," which, again, is almost beyond praise; but the general public knows nothing of it!

### THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

There is but little news this week, and that only of one theatre—the HAYMARKET—which closed on Wednesday. I regret to have to say that last week Mr. Sothorn was so ill that he could not act; so "David Garrick" was withdrawn, and George Colman's stock comedy of "The Poor Gentleman" substituted. "Box and Cox," too, has been revived, and so has "Three Weeks After Marriage." For Mr. Buckstone's benefit, Goldsmith's evergreen comedy of "She Stoops to Conquer" (the best, in my humble opinion, that ever was written) was played; and Mr. Buckstone spoke his customary address.

Although the regular season at the HAYMARKET is over, the theatre reopens, on the 6th inst., under the management of Miss Amy Sedgwick, when Mr. Tom Taylor's famous comedy of "The Unequal Match" is to be revived.

The ST. JAMES'S terminated its season with Miss Herbert's benefit; "on which occasion," to quote the playbills, the manageress made a speech to the audience.

It is said that Miss M. Oliver has taken a lease of the New ROYALTY THEATRE.

Miss Marie Wilton's light troupe, after a very successful six weeks at Manchester, have gone to Liverpool; and it is rumoured distantly that a new comedy, by the author of "Society," is shortly to be brought out there.

## Literature.

*The Resources and Prospects of America, ascertained during a Visit to the States in the Autumn of 1865.* By Sir S. MORTON PETO, Bart., M.P. for Bristol. London and New York: Alexander Strahan.

A "little" notice of Sir Morton Peto's work would be a "dangerous thing." The reader must have the book itself, or, at least, not be contented with less than a few solemn review articles. Even to skim the surface has its danger, like rapid skating upon ice. There would be danger of falling into discussion, and there is no knowing where such discussion might end. Sir Morton bristles with figures. He is nothing unless numerical. He would tabulate eloquence or rhetoric, and possibly divide a joke by the rule of three. But these figures are valuable and interesting as they stand, and seem to warrant the author's conclusions. These conclusions are, that the resources of the United States are almost boundless; or, if figures could be made to prove such a thing, incalculable. Thus there is nothing to fear from the public demands and revenue suddenly leaping up from fifteen millions sterling a year to sixty millions: the people can afford it. Nothing to fear, either, from the rapidly-formed public debt of six hundred millions, for the people can pay it quickly, although not quite so quickly as they incurred it. The fertile brains of American financiers seem equal to any occasion. They tax every individual thing which goes to make up an umbrella, and then fix a startling tax upon the umbrella complete; and a tax of one cent per box, containing one hundred of lucifer matches, is estimated to produce this year between three and four million dollars. It must, of course, be presumed that people have got the money if they manage to pay it; but there the bright side of the picture is at an end. Immigration has been the cause of American prosperity, and immigration has been entirely confined to the North, because in the South it was impossible to compete with slave labour, and terrible to have the very slaves sneering at you as a "mean white" who could not afford to keep slaves! America was selected by emigrants because of the freedom from taxation, the revenue being principally derived from the sale of solid acres. But now, in the States, taxation is fully as much per head as in England; and it remains to be seen if the States will still keep up their attractions in the eyes of intending emigrants. But Sir Morton Peto sees nothing of all this; nothing, indeed, save a continuation for ever of that astonishing increase of population and wealth which has marked the last twenty years. His book is well worth studying. He is thoroughly impartial, and is never once tempted to give an opinion on the "nigger question." But he says that the slaves were better treated than in the West Indies, and quotes President Johnson's remark that slavery was wrong because it involved a monopoly of labour! It is easy enough to see where the Abolitionist charity begins!

*Notes on Epidemics, for the Use of the Public.* By FRANCIS EDMUND ANSTIE, M.D., F.R.C.P., Senior Assistant Physician to the Westminster Hospital. London: Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.

With cholera appearing, like Harlequin in a pantomime, at all kinds of strange times and places, it is as well that the public should take at least some of the good advice and knowledge offered in these pages. The writer is a doctor, certainly, but his "Notes" can scarcely be called a medical book. He never mentions a drug, never gives the faintest hint as to the most superficial departments of household surgery, and evidently has no intention of turning his readers into doctors. But he discourses of epidemics, and tells how they probably arise, and how their varieties may be distinguished. A very little of this last, we think, ought to go a great way with the public. Dr. Anstie seems to expect for a patient a far greater amount of discrimination from the patient's friends than is ever likely to be the case. Most dangerous is the suggestion that it is "highly desirable that the study of really good pictorial representations of the characteristic eruptions of the contagious fevers should become general amongst women of every class." We have no doubt but that women of every class would do far more harm than good by any such study, and that in case of sickness they had better take other advice invariably suggested in these pages—i.e., to call in a doctor; unless, indeed, it be well known as one of the many ailments common to families, and which can be settled by a little sensible talk with the nearest chemist. The best medical practitioner would be puzzled to decide, at an early stage, between smallpox and eczema, and he would know the value of answers to his questions from a sensible patient; but a lady armed with only "pictorial representations," and no idea of what to ask, might prove a friend to the sexton indeed. Especially to be recommended are Dr. Anstie's remarks as to the cause and rise of epidemics, and the means which should be taken to avoid danger if possible, and to destroy it when really incurred. His suggestions for disinfecting rooms, clothing, &c., are of great value, and these indeed should be the study of people of every class. Some of these directions may appear trifling; but it is necessary to destroy every possibility of the dissemination of disease, and there is no knowing from what point contagion may arise.

*The Higher Education of Women.* By EMILY DAVIES. London and New York: Alexander Strahan.

Mr. Tennyson was supposed to have settled all the questions concerning the "higher education of women" years ago:—

Her mission there to rear and teach,

and which must not be cruelly taken as meaning that women are only fitted to rear, and to teach about as much as a child can learn. There are so many kinds of learning and capacities for learning in the female sex that, taking the middle classes as the fairest selection cultivated feminine genius is not so rare as a comet, or the fabulous aloe, nor uncultivated stupidity so common as pretty eyes and hair. But "Emily Davies" seems to think that all women are naturally and artificially alike. She demands a higher education for them, and puzzles herself throughout a volume as to what it shall be. Most readers will know one or two ladies who spell bonnet with one *n* and two *t*'s, and have a pretty trick of terminating a sentence with a proposition—as, "I didn't wish to," &c.; and here, perhaps, a little higher education would be of advantage. On the other hand, too well known is the modern Minerva who sees no soul in the Renaissance, and identifies herself triumphantly with the one primeval language. Here, instead, a slight knowledge of cookery, and nimble fingers over shirt-buttons and baby's boots, might make the household love flow more calmly. In fact, women differ so much, that it is impossible to decide what kind of a woman it is who has those "rights" and that "mission" which years since consumed so much pen and ink. But it is certain that any woman with the money and the mental ability can have the same education as any man in similar circumstances. Putting aside the exclusion of women from the public schools and universities, it is easy to remember the great number of great men who have been born in the humblest ranks, and who have been self-educated. Why should not their sisters have also risen into eminence? Simply because great attainments are not nearly so much in women's ways as dancing and fine dressing—and love of household duties must be added to their credit, despite the denial given to it by Miss or Mistress Davies. Without saying it, this lady is really feeling her way towards women sharing the professions and trades with men, without seeing any "natural selection" in the matter; and here, of course, the idea breaks down, because ridicule sets in. The old arguments need not be repeated. We are glad to say that "lovely woman" is likely to remain "lovely woman" to the end of the chapter; and the slightest deviation from such a course would be her ruin.

*The Toilet and Cosmetic Arts, in Ancient and Modern Times, &c.* By J. COOLEY. London: Robert Hardwicke.

The title of Mr. Cooley's book deserves to be given in full—"The Toilet and Cosmetic Arts in Ancient and Modern Times; with a Review of the Different Theories of Beauty, and Copious Allied Information, Social, Hygienic, and Medical, including Instructions and Cautions respecting the Selection and Use of Perfumes, Cosmetics, and other Toilet Articles, and a Comprehensive Collection of Formulae and Directions for their Preparation." A hundred years ago Dr. Johnson insisted that "Prior's Poems" was "a ladies' book." Well, the ladies do not read "Prior's Poems" now, nor the gentlemen either, perhaps; but, if a new ladies' book be wanted for modern times, assuredly Mr. Cooley supplies one better calculated to make their hearts beat than the loves of all the Corydons and all the Chloes of whom Mr. Prior ever sung. We do not pretend to have read all through these 800 close pages; but an account of Mr. Cooley's previous labours is sufficient to assure anybody that there must be few subjects of which he is not thoroughly master. He has written a cyclopædia of all kinds of information concerning arts, manufactures, professions, and trades; an English Dictionary; a Latin Grammar; and a book about London Hospitals. And this, his latest labour, combines much of the Cyclopædia with offshoots of the medical experience. But nothing, however far off, unnecessary, well known, or faintly connected with the precise matter in hand, is too insignificant for the grasp of Mr. Cooley—for that grasp of knowledge which is intended to disseminate it. Thus, when mention of the accession of the Queen is made, a foot-note gravely records, "A.D. 1837." What a calamity that the press cannot be stopped to add "June 20," and once more impress upon the reader that the year is not "u.c." However, a second edition may be called for, in which case it might be desirable to omit a passage concerning the gentlemen:—"The huge peg-top trousers distended by steel, cane, buckram, or whalebone, have been superseded by more seemly and useful garments." The tailoring tribe, from Moses to Poole, must laugh "in their sleeves" at such serious nonsense. Of course, Mr. Cooley gives plenty of quotations. Lola Montez recommends for ladies a plain straw hat:—"It refines the homeliest and composes the wildest; it gives the coquettish young lady a little dash of demureness, and the demure one a slight touch of coquetry." We doubt if gentlemen are not generally the best judges of these matters; but certainly Lola Montez had experience. Mr. Cooley is quite right in denouncing the indiscriminate recommendation of "steel drops" by editors of penny and halfpenny journals to foolish female correspondents; and he would be wise in taking upon himself as little of the doctor's office as possible. The chapters on beauty and the toilet are readable and useful, but the vast amount of recipes are calculated to do more harm than good, and to turn more heads than they can ever beautify.

*Self-Help; with Illustrations of Character, Conduct, and Perseverance.* By SAMUEL SMILES, Author of "Lives of the Engineers." New Edition. London: John Murray.

The new edition of "Self-Help" is improved by much valuable matter being given in place of much that was weak or irrelevant. Beyond those new pages, which are so like the best of the old that they now require no discussion, the preface only arrests attention. Mr. Smiles thinks that his title has been misunderstood, and that people expect a laudation of those who have been successful through selfishness. In such an idea he is surely mistaken; but, in case of accidents, his true meaning is worth the world's attention. Again, it has been objected that all "Self-Help" does not mean success in more than one of fifty cases; and "why should not Failure have its Plutarch as well as Success?"

The many fail, the one succeeds,

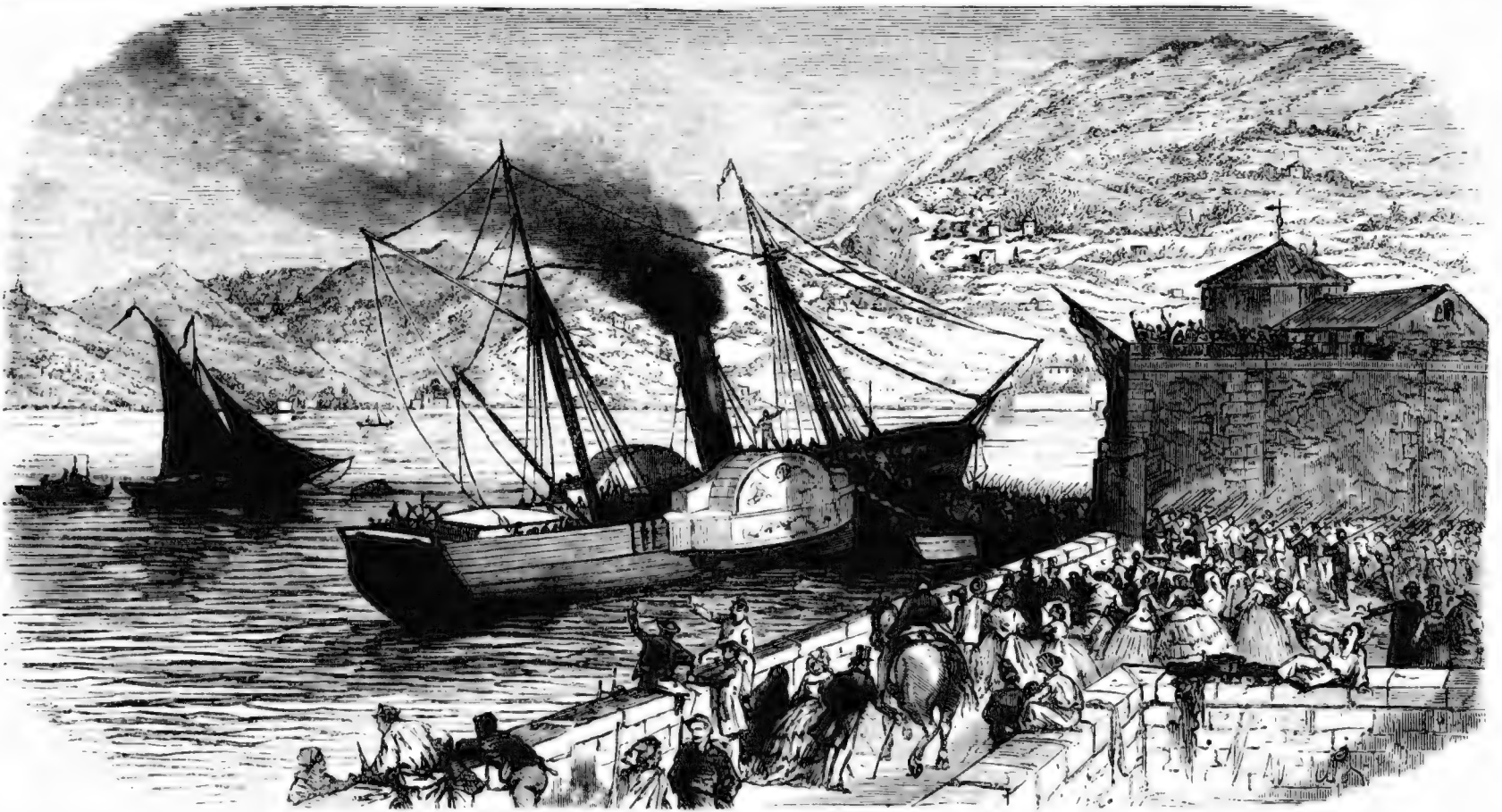
as Tennyson's hero thinks, in the "Sleeping Beauty." But to deify the biography of Failure would be a mistake, and a mistake without limit. It might include Napoleon and Burns, and even Sir Walter Scott. The present book has done good service from the beginning, and is now much improved.

*Wayside Flora; or, Gleanings from Rock and Field Towards Rome.* By NONA BELLAIRS. Author of "Hardy Ferns," "Going Abroad," &c. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

As there may still be Continental travelling this autumn, here is a new hint for tourists. No alpen-stock, nor colour-box, nor hammers for rock-splitting; but simply trowels. Three trowels, in a black tourist's bag, suspended round the neck. That is the way in which Mrs. Bellairs pursued one of the roads which, like all the others, leads to Rome, and here is her pretty description of her innocent ramble. The material of the book will touch readers differently. Everything seems to give way to flowers, and to wild flowers if possible. Take Milan, for instance. The cathedral is "that most perfect work of man;" but the interior is disappointing. The modern saint, Carlo Borromeo, is a fine saint indeed. All Milan looks beautifully clean and square; but Victor Emmanuel's people keep the public gardens so trim that there is no chance of getting any wild flowers. But there are beds full of *Deutzia gracilis*, the bloom hanging like wreaths of snow upon them; and then there are worlds of sulphur roses and petunias, and boughs of *Cercis siliquastrum*; and the cathedral and the saint are soon out of sight. This is not idle bookmaking: it is pure and delicate floral enthusiasm, just breathed in miniature.

LORD COWLEY, according to the *Owl*, has sent in his resignation as Ambassador at Paris, and merely holds office until the Government have decided on his successor in a post which it is far from easy to fill.





EMBARKATION OF GARIBALDIAN VOLUNTEERS AT COMO.

#### BUYING HORSES IN HUNGARY FOR THE AUSTRIAN CAVALRY.

OUR Engraving represents an episode of the war, which has not at present been checked even by the negotiations for the conclusion of peace. The vast number of horses killed in the late engagements make it necessary to seek a fresh supply for the Austrian cavalry, and as far as the light cavalry is concerned there are still means to furnish chargers in place of those which have been lost at Sadowa and elsewhere.

The light, wiry Hungarian steed, born of a wild sire and dam, is the very creature for his native rider. Full of active dash and energy, under a light weight, he is well calculated for active service; but he is scarcely up to a long journey with regular troops, and the regulation saddle galls his unaccustomed back sorely. Whatever may be his defects, however, he is full of pluck; and as Hungary is the country where the horses roam the plains in half-wild herds, only to be caught and ridden by still wilder drivers, there are few more striking spectacles than a horse fair, such as that at Debreczin, to which the Austrian contractors resort.

#### EMBARKATION OF ITALIAN VOLUNTEERS AT COMO.

WE have already published illustrations of the reception of the Garibaldians at Milan and at Como, at both of which places the enthusiasm with which the volunteers were greeted was unbounded. Our Engraving this week represents the embarkation of the troops for the coast of Venetia.

It would be almost impossible to convey an idea of the popular excitement manifested at the appearance of Garibaldi in Como,

Varese, and San Fermo, where the very houses, the trees, and the walls of streets bear his name. He is the continual topic of conversation, and wherever he goes the heart of the people follow him, and his strange life is already not only embodied in the history but in the poetry of a whole nation. There is in existence a Garibaldian catechism, in which the General is represented in the character and costume of Moses holding out his hands to overwhelm the Austrians in another Red Sea; while another engraving exhibits him a red-shirted but winged Archangel Michael, chasing his enemies with a flaming sword. Nobody who is unacquainted with that sort of mystic and semi-religious passion which the Italian Catholics feel for certain saints, can understand the kind or degree of affection entertained for Garibaldi. The sisters of some of the religious houses half worship him, and on one occasion he was served with a repast in which he or his name appeared in almost every dish. The biscuits were modelled after him, and the sweetmeats were sugar medallions bearing his portrait.

#### THE BATTLE OF OSWIECZIN, AND THE WOUNDED AUSTRIANS AT GORLITZ

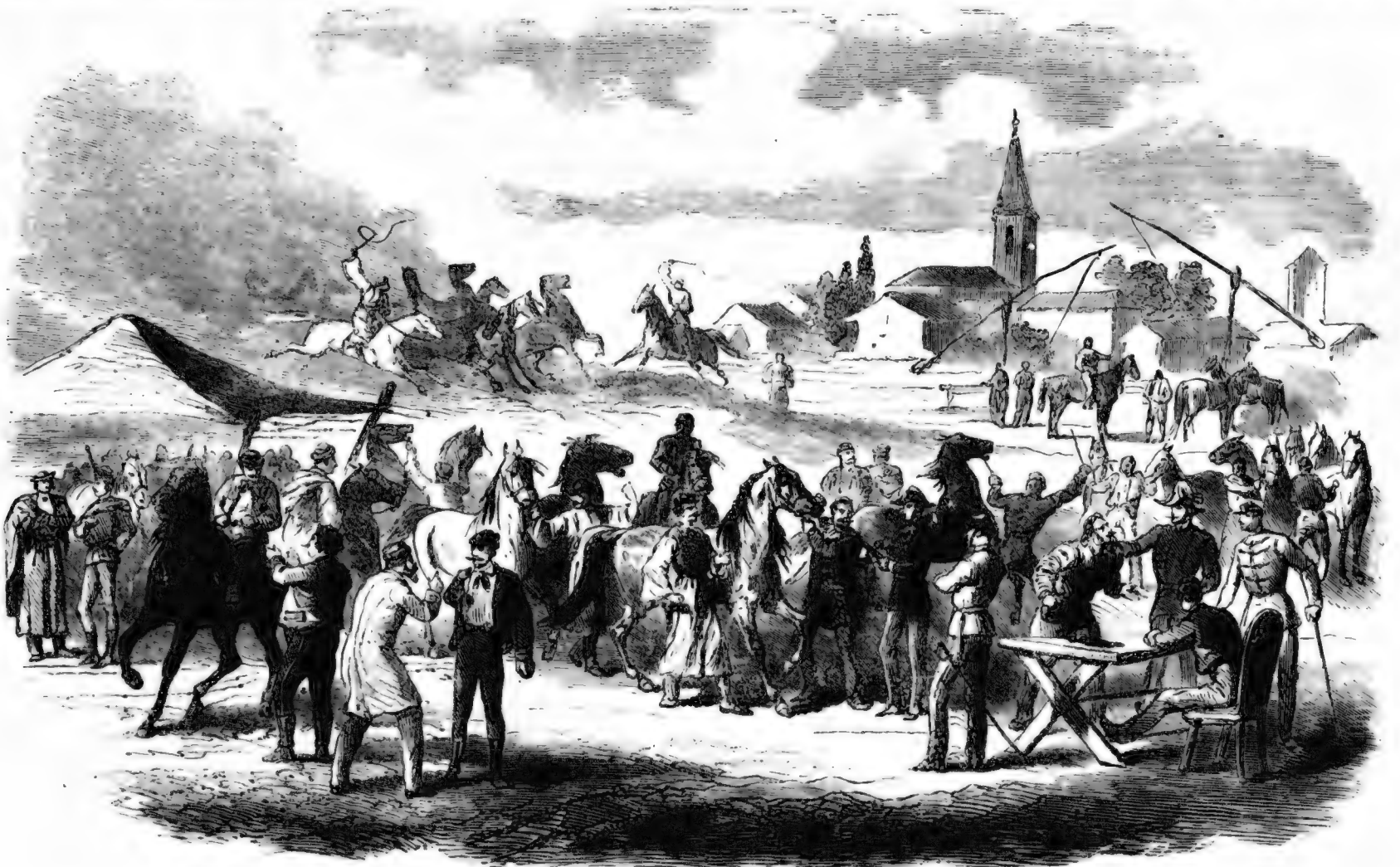
THE Engravings which we publish of the minor engagements which have been fought by the Prussian and Austrian forces are but the representations of conflicts that occurred on the blood-stained march which led the victorious army to Sadowa. Oswieczin, Podol, Nachod, and Skalitz will perhaps be known hereafter as the scenes of obstinate fighting in the thirty days' war; but at present their interest has been eclipsed by that of the great event. The affair at Oswieczin was rapid, and, beside the recent great engagement, was little more than a skirmish; but the result was to swell the number of dead and wounded, the awful list of which was almost

simultaneously increasing at Trautenau and Nachod. Of the fierce fight at the latter place we have already given some account. The Austrians had advanced thither from Josephstadt in order to deprive the Prussians of that important pass on their road to Königgrätz; but Steinmitz was not easily driven back, and, though the Prussian troops were at first repulsed, they returned to the attack and finally made the place their own.

There are no more strange and even affecting incidents than those which have occurred in almost every instance after these bloody encounters, when the wounded were left to the care of the enemy. Then the true civilisation and humanity of the German nations showed itself, even amidst the excitement and passion of war. Carnage stopped with victory; and the admirable arrangements and tender provision for the wounded which distinguish the Prussian camp service were eagerly put into operation for the men who had but an hour or two before been opposed in a deadly struggle.

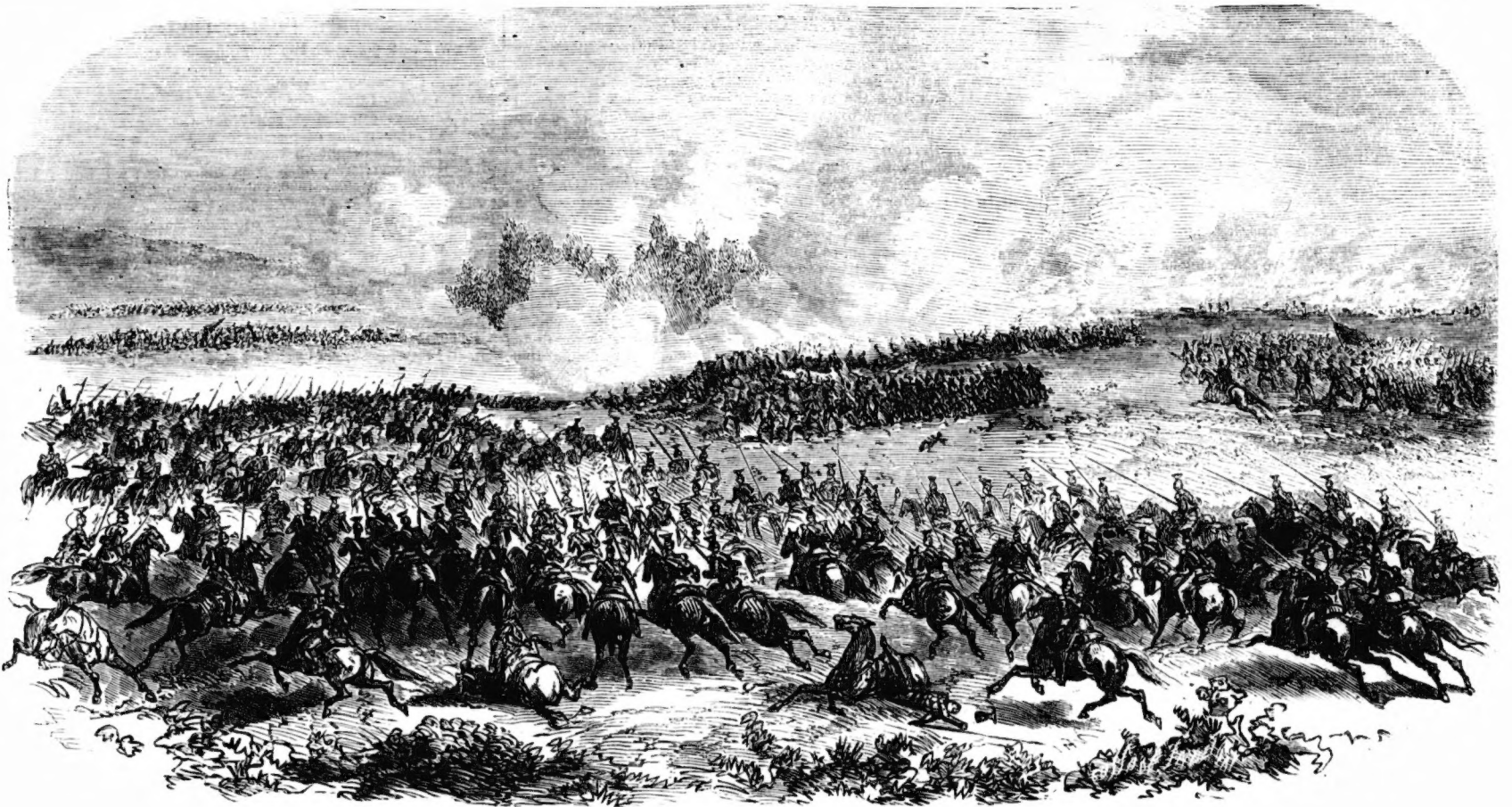
That war could happen at all between peoples so tender of each other's welfare when the horrible results of war were to be obviated, is one of the puzzles which perplex us in endeavouring to read poor human nature; but at the same time the underlying goodness of our race is in some way manifest by this very revulsion of feeling which made comrades in suffering of the men who had but yesterday been bitter and unyielding antagonists.

Nowhere was this more manifest than at Gorlitz, where both Austrian and Prussian wounded were sent after the obstinate struggle at Nachod; for at Gorlitz not only were the soldiers themselves ready to display mutual help, but men and women, who had volunteered to this pious service, were anxious to obliterate the last remnants of national animosity by their care of all those whose misfortunes were sufficient claim upon their practical benevolence. The scene at the railway station on the arrival of these poor fellows



BUYING HORSES FOR THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.





ENGAGEMENT AT OSWIECZIN, BETWEEN THE AUSTRIANS AND PRUSSIANS.

foemen no longer, was deeply affecting; but they were welcomed by kind hands and overflowing hearts which devised real and substantial proofs of their good-will. The place, indeed, was surrounded by the almoners of this true beneficence, whose solid and liquid proofs of their hearty sympathy were followed by a systematic regard for the proper care of the invalids who had become their peculiar charge.

#### THE LATE NAVAL ENGAGEMENT OFF LISSA.

A NARRATIVE of the recent operations of the Italian fleet in the engagement off Lissa has been published in a Florentine journal. It is apparently written by some one belonging to Admiral Vacca's division, to whose operations it gives prominence; but it also gives a clear and, seemingly, a very fair outline of the proceedings of the whole fleet. And it is the more valuable because it confines itself to a calm statement of facts and abstains from criticism, eschewing alike the vehement censures and the exaggerated laudation with which, in Southern Europe especially, such narratives are apt to be overlaid and deteriorated.

The Italian fleet that left Ancona on the 14th ult. under the orders of Admiral Persano consisted of eleven ironclads, six frigates, two paddlewheel corvettes, three small gun-boats, and several "aviso." The object of the expedition was to attack the island of Lissa, destroy the fortresses, and, if possible, take possession of the island. The chief of the Staff of the fleet, Captain d'Amico, went on board a small merchant-vessel and reconnoitred the island. He returned on the evening of the 17th, and measures were then taken for the attack, which was attended with only partial success. Rear-Admiral Vacca, with three ironclads, could do little against the forts of Port Comisa, because they are at from 300 to 700 metres above the sea, and he retired; Vice-Admiral Albini failed to effect a landing; Persano's ironclads, subsequently reinforced by those of Vacca, silenced the forts and batteries of Port St. George. Captain Sandri, who had been sent with three gun-boats to the neighbouring island of Lesina, to cut the telegraph wires which from Lissa pass over it to the Continent, arrived "too late," says the narrative, "the advice of the presence of our squadron having already been sent to Pola, and Admiral

Tegethoff having replied that the forts were to hold out, and that he would soon come to their assistance with his whole squadron." From this it does not seem that Persano's chief object in attacking Lissa was, as has been generally supposed, to draw the Austrian fleet out of Pola, and bring about a fight. A good part of the 19th was passed in waiting for the enemy, who did not appear. The fleet was strengthened by the arrival of the *Affondatore* and of the three steam-frigates, *Principe Umberto*, *Carlo Alberto*, and *Governolo*. The attack on Port St. George was resumed; the ironclad *Formidabile* boldly entered the port, while Admiral Vacca from without tried to keep down the fire of the batteries. The *Formidabile* was much pounded, especially by a battery of big guns established at the innermost point of the bay, where the town stands, and Vacca, seeing her in danger, went in with his three ironclads, engaged the fort of the *Caserma* at a distance of only 200 metres, and succeeded in silencing it. But not completely; silenced for a moment, it again and again obstinately renewed the combat. Unable to resist the heavy fire of the forts commanding the port, the Italian vessels retired, manœuvring with difficulty in the confined space, and the arrival of night prevented their renewing the attack. The *Formidabile* remained in till dark, had a considerable number of men killed and wounded, and was set on fire by a shell, as was also the *Ancona* by a shell which killed six men and wounded seventeen. Thus ended the fighting against the shore batteries and forts, which had suffered a great deal, and the island, in the opinion of the writer of the narrative, must have been taken the next day had the attack been resumed. Meanwhile, the *Formidabile*, much damaged, and with a loss of sixty men, was ordered to return to Ancona.

The morning of the 20th was inclined to be stormy, with intermittent rain and variable winds. Operations against the island were about to recommence when the Austrian approach was signalled. The fleet formed in the order of battle previously concerted, Vacca at the head of the column, Persano in the centre, Commodore Riboty in the rear. Admiral Albini, with his eight frigates and the minor vessels, formed a second line, nine cables' lengths (*gomene*) from the ironclads. The Austrian squadron advanced in full stern

in two divisions (*due gruppi di fronte*), one of seven ironclads, the other consisting of the line-of-battle ship *Kaiser*, two first-class frigates, and various other smaller vessels and gun-boats—in all, twenty-three sail. At that moment Admiral Persano passed from his flagship, *Rè d'Italia*, on board the *Affondatore*, and soon afterwards he ordered a formation in column (*linea di fila*), at the head of which remained Vacca. Then the Austrian squadron, profiting by our change of formation, bore down with all its force on our flanks in order to assail them with its prows. At barely 200 metres from the hostile column the *Carignano* opened fire, thus giving the signal of combat; the hostile ironclads answered our broadsides and dashed into the centre of our column to assail the *Rè d'Italia*. Struck in two places, that ship successfully repelled two attempts to board, had her rudder crippled, and thus was unable to manœuvre. In increased force the enemy attacked her; combustibles thrown upon her decks set her on fire abaft; at last, through immense chasms in her sides, the water poured in, and she sank in a moment. Meanwhile, Vacca, after exchanging several broadsides with the Austrian ironclads, became engaged with the wooden ships, the *Kaiser* at their head, which fought with great bravery; having thus passed the whole of the Austrian line, Vacca ordered a countermarch to the left to attack the enemy on the other flank.

Concert and unity of action seem soon afterwards to have been lost. Every ironclad singled out an enemy and fought upon her own hook. The *Rè di Portogallo* found herself in some danger. "It appears," says the narrator, as if dubiously repeating a rumour, "that she had sunk an Austrian gun-boat," and, while making head against all comers, she suddenly saw the *Kaiser* bearing down full steam upon her flank. A rapid movement given to the Italian frigate, by order of her commander, Riboty, made the damage done less than it otherwise would have been. The two vessels remained for some time close together, and apparently in some way held entangled, exchanging volleys of small-arms; but the Italian Captain contrived to give his antagonist a broadside from his prodigious guns, and then the *Kaiser* wrenched herself loose and steamed towards the shore. "She appeared dismantled in all parts, her



WOUNDED PRUSSIAN AND AUSTRIAN SOLDIERS ARRIVING AT GORLITZ AFTER THE BATTLE OF NACHOD.



masts shot away, her chimney down, her hull in flames. Many assert that they saw her go down shortly afterwards." This, it is now known, was not the case. The first Italian bulletin given to the public made no mention of any Austrian ships lost; then came a supplementary paragraph saying that the Kaiser and two other vessels had been sunk. The Italian press improved on this, and in more than one paper it at last came to be asserted that the Austrians had lost eight ships of their squadron. It now seems nearly certain that, although they must have experienced damage, they did not lose one.

The narrative says that the Affondatore was more or less engaged with several of the enemy's ships, and suffered considerably, chiefly from projectiles which passed right through the ship. It is clear that the new ironclad is far less invulnerable than she was expected to prove, or else that the Austrians have some tremendously powerful guns.

After these several encounters, in which about two hours were passed, the two squadrons found themselves separated, the Austrians occupying the position the Italians at first had, and vice versa. Our iron-clad gun-boat Palestro was isolated and on fire towards the coast of Lesina. She was burning fast aft and the fire gaining ground. Her commander, Capellini, made towards us to avoid an attack from the enemy, and succeeded in pulling himself in our line. Two steamers went to assist him; but he refused all help, saying he should remain on his ship, and giving leave to all who chose to go, but none abandoned him. Finally, after another half hour, in which the flames had got completely the mastery, the Palestro blew up with all her crew, only one officer and a few men being saved.

We might have recommenced the combat. Our ironclads, though decimated, and our squadron of eight fine frigates still untouched, and with an available force of nearly 400 great guns, were well able to offer fresh battle to the enemy; and Admiral Vacca formed a column of all the disposable ironclads, in order afterwards in line to go and attack the Austrian fleet; but the Admiral-in-Chief retired, with the Affondatore at the head of the formation, giving orders to follow his manoeuvres, and by short tactics we increased our distance from the enemy, which still remained in column awaiting our attack. When we got to a certain distance (*completa distanza*) a part of the Austrian fleet entered the port of Lissa, and a part went off in a south-easterly direction behind the island, and we put to sea, directing our course in the night towards Ancona.

The narrative which is assuredly from the pen of a naval officer engaged at Lissa, concludes as follows:—

To be conscientiously veracious, it is necessary to admit that neither side won a victory; we were in superior numbers to the enemy, and our crew were as resolute as could be desired to fight to the utmost. For what reasons did we not come off conquerors? The future will judge of the facts, and it is not for us to declare our opinions. It should console the service and the nation that this first essay of our young navy has given fine examples of its valour and heroism; no one was stained by cowardice, and all did their duty. Italy has a right to be proud of her fleet—a sudden creation, which may hereafter become one of the firmest supports of her power and greatness.

Subjoined is a summary of the contents of a letter from an officer who was on board one of the Austrian vessels engaged at Lissa on the 20th ult. :—

On the 19th of July our flotilla left Fasana, near Pola. It consisted of two large frigates, three middle-sized, and two smaller vessels, all which are ironclads; further, of sixteen wooden vessels—viz., a ship of the line, six frigates, seven gun-boats, and two large steamers. At eleven o'clock we were off the island of Lissa, but the weather being foggy we were unable distinctly to see the Italian fleet. Our orders were to attack the enemy in three divisions, the ironclads leading the way. The armour-plated Italian ships soon came alongside, but the wooden vessels kept out of the range of our guns. Strange to say, the Italian ironclads did not attempt to run our wooden ships down. Though it was given and taken for some time, no great damage was done until our flagship (the *Ferdinand Max*) attacked the *Rid d'Italia*. For a quarter of an hour the two vessels exchanged broadsides at a distance of 300 yards, or thereabouts. Suddenly the cannonade ceased, and, as the smoke rose, I saw the *Ferdinand Max* run right into her adversary, and then retire at full speed. There was a tremendous breach in the side of the Italian ship, and as she lurched over I could plainly see the men standing on the deck and the sailors rushing up from the batteries. In less than five minutes the vessel "went down by the head with man and mouse." I saw another ironclad engaged with the *Don Juan d'Austria*, and after a few broadsides had been exchanged the former suddenly steered off. About half an hour later the Italian vessel, when at a distance of about two sea miles from us, blew up. The Kaiser, which the Italians seemed to take for our flagship, got roughly handled. One of the ironclads tried to run into the Austrian ship of the line, but fortunately failed to effect its purpose. The Kaiser then ran at full speed against the side of the ironclad; but she paid dearly for her rashness, as her foremast came down on the deck and carried away the funnel in its fall. The Affondatore, a monitor, kept close to the shore, and hardly fired a shot. After the Italian fleet had left, our vessel entered the port of Lissa, where the Kaiser was already at anchor. Two hours later the second division, which had gone in chase of the enemy, joined us. We lost two first-rate officers: the one, Captain Erich, of Klint (a Swede), was commander of the *Novara*; the other, Captain Moll, had the command of the *Drache*, an ironclad frigate. Fortunately for us, the Italian gunners fired very badly.

**BOILER EXPLOSION AND LOSS OF LIFE.**—A shocking explosion took place, on Saturday morning last, at the Phoenix, better known as the Scotia Colliery, Tunstall, Staffordshire, belonging to Mr. Hugh Henshall Williamson. For the working of these pits a spacious engine-house, with new and powerful machinery, had but just been erected at the bottom of the new road from Burslem to Tunstall, connected with which were two boilers, 36 ft. in length and 9 ft. or 10 ft. in diameter, raised upon a foundation of solid brickwork which projected some distance across the road. One of these boilers was completed on Wednesday morning week, and with that the engine was set to work. At about twenty minutes past seven o'clock on Saturday morning, while several persons were engaged in fixing the other boiler, and two men were actually at work inside it, the boiler which was at work burst, and shook the whole neighbourhood. The entire end of the boiler was blown out; the inner tube was hurled about a hundred yards distance, while the boiler itself was lifted from its bed and thrown about 100 yards into a large heap of refuse from the pits. The other boiler was sent flying 50 yards along the road with the two men inside it; the adjoining building was demolished, the stone and brick work torn up and sent in terrible showers in every direction. The engine driver, Stephen Chadwick, who was married, with three children, was literally blown to pieces. A boiler-maker named Abel Mayer, a young married man, at work on the unfinished boiler, who was found shockingly crushed amid the wreck, expired soon afterwards, and five or six other men are seriously injured.

**DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT BIRMINGHAM.**—A great fire took place, on Sunday night, at the railway-carriage works of Messrs. Brown and Marshall, Salford, Birmingham. It occurred in the finishing department, destroying the place and a large number of carriages intended for Indian railways. These extensive works occupy about thirteen acres of ground, and are situated in a natural hollow, the town of Birmingham crowning the edge on the one side. There was a large reservoir used to supply the works, which afforded a ready supply of water; but the buckets had to be carried through the extensive yard and some of the shops before the burning place could be reached. How the fire originated no one was able even to venture a supposition. There had been no one working in the place since the usual hour on Saturday. The watchman had been on duty as usual, and had not observed the slightest indication of the presence of fire. There might have been some combustible matter about, and the fire may have originated in that way, or else it is difficult to suppose how on the Sunday evening, so many hours after all work had ceased, a fire could have originated. From the moment when it made its first appearance it spread with fearful rapidity. Every moment the fire grew in extent and rapidity. Along the shaving-littered floor it ran from bay to bay, and leaped from carriage to carriage. In all there were nearly thirty finished carriages, besides the under-frames of some few more, wholly burnt. The flames seemed to give forth a more intense heat than usual; they rose high in the air, and, fanned by a stiff north-east wind, twined and curled about in all directions, blasting with their fearful heat everything near. The damage is estimated at £10,000.

**THE THAMES NAVIGATION BILL.**—This bill proposes to place the control of the upper part of the river in the hands of the same body which governs the lower; so that the Conservancy Acts, instead of being operative only as far up as Staines, will extend to its source. The weirs and locks established from time to time by private persons will no longer be suffered to remain in their hands; and the pollution of the river will, as far as possible, be prevented by the prohibition of the construction of any more sewers with outlets into the Thames, or within three miles of the mouth of either of its tributaries. In the case of existing sewers, the Conservancy Board will have power to stop them under certain conditions. All these regulations for the better working and management of the traffic on the Thames are good in their way; but if the improvement of the river by embankments, and so forth, is to be accompanied with a serious diminution of its volume, that will be a much more important matter. This river is fed by tributaries which, singularly enough, are equal in number on the north and south banks (seven on each side), which contribute to the supply of the metropolis, and eight others which flow in, below the pumping stations of the water companies; and it is to be hoped that, when the board get the power into their hands, they will speedily make the river navigable much higher up than at present, and at the same time purify and increase the volume of its water.—*Once a Week.*

## THE OPERAS.

THE opera season, supposed by the Royal Italian Opera subscribers to be already at an end, is, in fact, drawing to a close. At Her Majesty's Theatre, as at Covent Garden, the regular subscription season is over; but the after-performances, at which the "usual restrictions in regard to evening dress are not enforced," go on still. On Thursday Mdlle. Titiens' benefit took place, the opera selected for the occasion being "Medea." The final representation of "Dinorah," with Mdlle. Ilma de Murska in the part of the heroine, was fixed for Friday; and to-night (Saturday) "Oberon" will be played for the last time. Probably "one week more" is meditated. At all events, the benefit of Mr. Santley is announced for Monday next, when the popular baritone will be heard, for the last time this season, as Count di Luna in "Il Trovatore."

Mr. Gye always contrives to render his last night one of the most brilliant, if not the most brilliant, of the whole season. He had no "Africaine" to wind up with this year, but he had "The Marriage of Figaro," which is something; and the admirable style in which Mozart's comic masterpiece was represented, on Friday, for the first, and on Saturday (of necessity) for the last time, will be among the pleasantest recollections of the operatic year of 1866. It had been hoped that in this opera Mdlle. Adelina Patti and Mdlle. Pauline Lucca would be heard together, and that the public would actually have an opportunity of seeing Mdlle. Patti, as Susanna, arrange the hair of Mdlle. Lucca, as Cherubino. But this piquant sight was not to be seen. The duet which these charming vocalists would have sung so charmingly was not to be heard.

The part of Susanna under the new arrangement was taken by that fluent and brilliant vocalist Mdlle. Lemmens-Sherrington, who acquitted herself of her difficult, and it must be supposed, suddenly-assumed task, very creditably. The Countess was represented by Mdlle. Desirée Artot, who, owing to the large number of first sopranos engaged, has had but few opportunities this season of exhibiting her remarkable talent. Nothing could have been better than her tasteful and thoroughly sentimental delivery of the lively "Porgi amor"—to specify one achievement in a highly meritorious performance, which was successful throughout. But the great charm of this representation was the exquisite singing and acting of Mdlle. Pauline Lucca. M. Faure and Signor Graziani, as Figaro and as the Count, and the two representatives, already mentioned, of Susanna and of the Countess, deserve all praise; but Mdlle. Lucca's singing and acting were almost beyond praise. Such a charming impersonation of Mozart's (we will not say Beaumarchais') Cherubino has never been seen in our time.

It is scarcely worth while to describe in detail a performance which cannot be heard again before next spring. But we may briefly mention the fact that the end has been worthy of the beginning, and that nothing could have been more satisfactory than the final performance.

**THE THEATRE A SANITARY AGENT.**—The new scenic ballet at the Alhambra, called "The Titanic Cascade," is of some little importance to the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields as a sanitary agent. Every time it is exhibited, at least twenty tons of water, after flowing before the audience for twenty minutes or more, find their way into the sewers and flush them, free of cost to the ratepayers. This is not to be despised in hot weather and a close neighbourhood.

THE LORD MAYOR gave the usual banquet to her Majesty's Ministers on Wednesday evening. The Earl of Derby and twelve other members of the Government were present. The speeches were of the usual complimentary character. The Earl of Derby spoke at some length, but said nothing of much interest. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was not much more explicit. The whole of the proceedings were of a pleasant, genial character.

**TRAFFIC OF LONDON.**—Mr. Walpole's bill for regulating the traffic of the metropolis within four miles of Charing-cross, as measured in a straight line, proposes (subject to exceptions that may be allowed and licenses that may be granted by the Commissioner of Police) to limit to certain hours—viz., before ten a.m. or after seven a.m.—scavenging (except the removal of snow), cattle-driving, and the carriage of large timber, iron, ladders, &c., or conveyance of goods in vehicles drawn by more than four horses. The exposure or deposit of goods on the footway, or between the footway and the carriage-way, is prohibited, except in loading or unloading and carrying away goods, and the loading or unloading after ten a.m. of coal or casks on or across any public footway, except in back streets to be designated by the police. Metropolitan stage-carriages are not to stop for taking up or setting down passengers except as near as may be to the left or near side of the road. No picture, placard, or notice is to be carried along the street by way of advertisement; but this is not to apply to the sale of newspapers. No fare less than 1s. is to be payable to the driver of a hackney-carriage; every such carriage plying for hire after sunset must have a lamp, and the police may remove any hackney carriage found in a condition unfit for public use, and it is not to be out again for hire until after inspection and leave given. Dogs found in the street not under the control of any person may be taken possession of by the police, and sold or destroyed if not claimed within three days; and when any person has been attacked by a dog the magistrate may order it to be destroyed. Police regulations may be made in relation to vessels on the river on any occasion when large crowds may be on the water. The Commissioner of Police, with the approval of the Secretary of State, may from time to time, within "special limits" to be fixed by them and publicly announced, with ten days' notice, make regulations with respect to the route to be taken by carriages, the times when carriages may load and unload in the street, the maximum speed to be allowed, the line to be kept by persons riding or driving or walking, the driving of cattle, and the taking up or setting down of passengers in metropolitan stage-carriages. A breach of the regulations is to be punished by fine. The bill is to come into operation on Nov. 1.

**THE SOUTH WALES IRON TRADE.**—In consequence of the general depression in the iron trade and the unpropitious prospects of the future, the ironmasters of South Wales gave notice at all the works, at the beginning of July, that a reduction of wages would take place from Monday, the 30th ult. Although the trade is still in a state of stagnation, the prospects of a permanent peace and the probability of a reduction in the rate of discount, with other favourable circumstances, as affecting future operations, determined the masters to reconsider the notice; and they came to the resolve that the proposed reduction should not apply to the colliers and miners employed at the ironworks. Subsequently they held another meeting, at which the case of the furnacemen, forgers, &c., was taken into consideration; and, after much careful consideration, they agreed that the wages of all the men employed at the works should continue to stand as heretofore. The proposed reduction would have affected the men to at least 10 per cent. The result has given the greatest satisfaction throughout the district, especially among the workmen and their families; and it has been the means of keeping at home a large number of the most skilled workmen, who, in anticipation of the reduction being carried out, were making preparations for emigrating to the United States.

**MR. JOHN BRIGHT.**—The secretary of the Reform League at Birmingham has received the following from Mr. Bright, in reply to an application to the hon. gentleman to attend an "open-air" meeting:—"Rochdale, July 27. Dear Sir,—I must ask your friends to excuse me if I am unable to attend the meeting on the 31st inst. After the labours of the Session I cannot at once enter on those of public meetings in connection with the great question on which the Session has been mainly wasted. I suppose your meeting will be held in the open air, and I dare not attempt to speak in the open air. I hope before another Session some steps may be taken to enrol working men, now unenfranchised, in associations which will enable them to bring their demands for the suffrage with increased effect before Parliament during the next Session. Some concession to them cannot be far off, and the extent of it will depend much on their own organised efforts on behalf of their own cause. I regret very much not to be able just now to take part in your movement."

**AN UNEXPECTED VICTIM TO CIVIL WAR.**—An American paper says the coolest specimen of impudence of modern times is a recent speech of the bottled hero of Big Bethel (Butler), who declares that he was "impoverished by the late rebellion!" This declaration can be guaranteed as a capital substitute for ice. Let all who read it cut it carefully out of their newspaper and use it as a refrigerant where ice is not to be had. We have pasted the speech up in our office, which has a southern exposure, and we expect to wear winter clothes and keep up a fire during the summer months, if it remain where it now is.

**THE TRADE OF LIVERPOOL.**—From a return just published by the treasurer to the dock board it appears that of the dock and light dues received at the port of Liverpool for the year ending the 24th of June last, £45,945 was received on sailing vessels in the foreign trade of 2,033,548 tons, and £85,636 on steamers in the same trade of 1,211,812 tons. On sailing vessels, of 553,196 tons, in the coasting trade, £8558 17s. 1d. was received, and on steamers in the same trade, of 1,524,844 tons, £27,444 was received. There were also some small receipts on vessels for Runcorn, raising the gross total to 21,920 ships, of 5,813,322 tons, on which were received £269,045, being an excess of 604,050 in tonnage, and £22,976 in receipts over the next highest year—1861. The increase has been solely in the steam trade, which has shown a wonderful increase of late years. The foreign steam trade shows an increase on the previous year of 514,817 tons, and on 1861 of no less than 704,339 tons, or more than double. The progress of the coasting steam trade is equally decisive, though less rapid.

## FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

NEW YORK possesses the magnificent Astor Library, containing about 100,000 volumes in every department of literature, open freely to the public for reference every day from nine to five. It has also a City Library free, open daily from ten to four; an Apprentices' Library—established solely for the use of apprentices and females in the employ of mechanics and tradesmen, and open freely to this class from eight in the morning till nine in the evening; a Medical Library, free, open from ten to ten; a Printers' Library, containing more than 4000 volumes, also free; and now there is every prospect of another free library being added on a large scale. Boston, by a special Act of the Massachusetts Legislature, in 1848, was provided with a free public library, and had granted from the city funds 5000 dols. a year for its maintenance. Immediately on its establishment energetic citizens contributed largely in books and money towards the preliminary expenses, and a citizen of London (Mr. Joshua Bates), connected with Boston by business and personal ties, presented a sum of £10,000 sterling for the purchase of books. Throughout the United States, libraries—readily accessible to all in search of knowledge—are numerous, and one result is that in intelligence, in acquaintance with literature and knowledge of the best writers in their language, the American people are unequalled in the world. But it was not left for democratic institutions to set an example in this respect—France possesses more than a hundred public libraries, open freely to all comers, without distinction of person, rank, or country; Austria and Prussia together have nearly ninety; Bavaria has seventeen; Belgium fourteen; and other European kingdoms have a fair share. Until the passing of Mr. Ewart's Act, in 1850, for enabling town councils to establish public libraries and museums, England had the unhappy pre-eminence of being without a single strictly free public library. Paris now possesses seven perfectly free public libraries, Vienna has three, and Berlin two. The library of the British Museum was, and is still, we think, properly available to readers only under certain restrictions. The libraries of Sion College and of Dr. Williams also were and are subject to restrictions which prevent their free use by the public. These three libraries, however, are, at the present moment, notwithstanding the activity of provincial towns, the only libraries available for inhabitants of this great city of London; and the restrictions to which we have referred, including the hours during which they are open, render them totally useless for the man of business, the clerk, the mechanic, and the artisan. Many smaller towns and cities throughout England have voluntarily taxed themselves under the provisions of the Act of Parliament referred to, and have established libraries, most of which are rendering immense service to the cause of education. London, which, of all other cities in the world, owes most of its position to the intelligence, education, and activity of its citizens, stands, to our thinking, degraded and disgraced for its apathy in this matter. Is there no public spirit among our bankers and merchants equal to that which has made John Jacob Astor's name one to be carried down to the remotest posterity, accompanied by the thanks and blessings of those whose intellectual advancement has been promoted by his princely liberality? Is the accumulation of wealth alone the object of ambition to our citizens, and have they no desire to contribute aid towards the elevation and improvement of the masses? We hear of political reform till we are sickened with the very name, and recognise it only as the war-cry of a party and the red flag of political antagonism; but this branch of social reform—the truest and surest of all reforms—is left unheeded and uncared for. Among the bankers, merchants, and traders of our city there are men who have felt it an honour to enrol themselves in the ranks of literature, whose fame hereafter will depend more upon their contributions to literature and science than to anything they may have done in the accumulation of wealth; such men—honoured and respected in all circles, possessing the confidence and respect of their fellow citizens—we call upon to be up and doing in this matter. Let them initiate measures for the establishment of a free public library in this city—a library which shall be an honour to the first city of the world. The contribution of their wealth, and, more than all, the influence which their active exertions will give to such a movement, is sure to rally round them a body of supporters whose energies and exertions will be irresistible. It is apathy, not opposition, that has to be overcome; antiquated prejudices doubtless prevail, penny-wise-and-pound-foolish difficulties may be urged; but these are mere cobwebs, which will be swept away with ease by a body of determined men. The aim of such a movement as we speak of should be to induce the Corporation of the city of London to grant an eligible and central site for a building, and to contribute from its funds a sum towards the expenses of erection and endowment, such sum to be supplemented by voluntary contributions; and we have such confidence in our fellow-citizens that we believe individual subscriptions will be by hundreds and even thousands of pounds towards such an object. Apart from the benefit which will result to the inhabitants of this city from such a library, a movement in this direction on the part of the metropolis will set in motion similar active exertions throughout the country; and we hope the day is not far distant when our country will stand first among the nations of the world in the activity of its educational institutions and the extent of its means for imparting knowledge.—*From Tribune's Literary Record, July, 1866.*

**THE ATLANTIC ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.**—The Atlantic telegraphic cable having been successfully laid, electrical communication with America is now formally inaugurated, congratulatory messages having passed between the Queen and the President of the United States. Her Majesty "hopes it will prove an additional bond of union" between the two countries, and Mr. Johnson "cordially reciprocates the hope." News from New York has been published in the London newspapers on the same day that the messages were dispatched. £1 a word is to be the price of messages to America.

**GREAT STORM.**—Since Saturday the Irish Channel and the Mersey have been visited by a great storm, which has done considerable damage to life and property. At Liverpool the weather became almost winter-like, rain fell in torrents, and was accompanied by frequent squalls. Early on Monday morning a schooner struck on the Hoyle Bank and was seen to exhibit signals of distress. The life-boat was at once launched, but before she could be of any service the schooner had sunk. Only one man was picked up; he was found floating on a spar. Later in the same day a flat sunk near the same bank; and this, too, went down so suddenly that the life-boat could not rescue the crew. All along the north-east coast the effects produced by the wind and rain were terrible. The Rev. George Iliff, of the Hall School, Bishopwearmouth, states that 4 in. of rain, or more than one sixth of the whole fall for a year, have fallen in the town since Saturday. An immense amount of damage has been done to the grain crops, which only a day or two ago looked so promising. At Shields a house, newly erected, was blown down, and there and in other towns chimneys and tiles were blown from the tops of houses. The rain flooded great numbers of cellars, stores, and dwelling-houses. But the most serious damage was done at sea. Several vessels broke from their moorings at North Shields, and could not be brought up until considerable injuries had been sustained. On Tuesday morning a screw-steamer, apparently in distress, was seen off Hartlepool, but the atmosphere became so hazy that she was lost sight of. The saddest casualty which has been reported is the loss of the barque *Ostrich*, of North Shields. She left the Tyne coal-laden on Monday afternoon, and, as all her crew was not on board, she was brought up outside the bar. Here she was joined by the missing men, and it was intended that she should lie at anchor until about three o'clock the next morning. But about one o'clock the wind, which had before been blowing very strong, increased in fury, and the sea rapidly rose. So violent was the storm that the vessel dragged her anchor towards the shore, and the men on watch, seeing how she was drifting, alarmed the other members of the crew. These ran on deck, and found the sea rolling with terrible force on the vessel's side, and lifting her nearer the land. All the efforts made to get her again out to sea proved of no avail. The men all took to the rigging, made what signals of distress they could, and shouted, but the wind drowned their cries. Some little hope was given by a light which was seen through the darkness; but, unfortunately, it was only a lamp burning in the bedroom window of a cottage, and was soon put out. Soon the vessel was driven upon the rocks, and in a few minutes she was a total wreck. All the boats were stove in, and the men, who were clinging to the masts, divesting himself of all his clothes, leaped over the bulwarks, and, reaching the shore, crawled up the cliffs and obtained admittance into a cottage. Three other men also succeeded in reaching the shore, and found their way to the same house. The captain, who had a son only thirteen years old on board, was determined not to leave him, and in attempting to save him lost his own life. In all, nine of the crew were drowned.







